



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by C H P, Rohnert Park

September 14, 2011, 9:30 am.

Attendance:

Randy Collins	SRJC	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Mark Aston	County Fire	Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe
Tim Streblov	Cal Fire	Max Ming	Forestville
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Phil Garcia	Sonoma Valley
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
Mike Jones	Santa Rosa	Paul Pigoni	Geyserville
Eric Hoffman	Cal Fire	Dan Northern	Forestville
Loren Davis	Mountain	Caerleon Safford	Fire Safe Sonoma
Darin DeCarli	Gold Ridge	Cary Fergus	Petaluma
John Marty	Rohnert Park		

Call to Order: 09:40

Host Chief Introduction: President Collins introduced Greg Tracy Commander of CHP Santa Rosa. Commander Tracy welcomed the group, added that if we wished to send in our department patches they will add include them in their collection and offered their briefing room for future chiefs meetings. He followed with a run down on the organization, their operations and some accident statistics. Chief Garcia said he appreciates the professionalism of the patrol officers. Chief Williams asked if they will assist in City limits if requested. **A)** They will. Commander Tracy introduced Officer Ryan Kilgore who thanked the group for attending. Chief Northern asked about the traffic safety vests; why do we [fire] we need to wear them and you do not? Scene safety reasons were given. Chief Treanor asked if all officers are EMT's. **A)** Officers are no longer required to maintain the EMT. President Collins said we appreciate the offer to host future meetings; and alluded to Commander Tracy's oratory skills who spoke quite well at the PCAM event. Officer Ryan Kilgore is the liaison and said to call him or the on duty sergeant should we have any issues or concerns that might occur (see email sent Sept 28 for his contact information).

Approval of Minutes: President Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chief Williams moved to approve the minutes, Second by Chief Treanor, all were in favor.

President Collins asked to amend the agenda to add the nominating committee report to New Business. Chief Treanor moved to accept the amended agenda, second by Chief Aston, all were in favor.

President's Report: President Collins reported that the E Board met and discussed changing how the group interacts with the liaisons to the sub-groups. It was decided that the sub-group Presidents (or their designee) should attend and make their group's reports to the Chiefs instead of having a Chiefs liaison

attend their meetings and report back. Accordingly, letters were sent out to sub-group Presidents DeCarli, Fergus, and Holden advising them of the change and he welcomed Presidents Darren DeCarli of the Op's group and Cary Fergus of the FPOs. He also reported that on 8-26-11 he and Chiefs Aston and Grinnell met with Representative Hoffman about SRA fees. President Collins congratulated new Chiefs Mark McCormick and Bill Braga (Santa Rosa and Sebastopol respectively) and Chief Williams upon the establishment of the Central Fire Authority.

Treasurer's Report

- Checking: \$1,179.13
- W/O Interest checking: \$15,661.52
- W/O CD: \$116,664.36

Correspondence

- Out Bound: Letters to sub group presidents-Ops/TO/Prevention
- Scheduling request – Chesbro still outstanding.

Presentations: None

Committee Reports

Training Section: No report. Next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2011 @ 0900.

Prevention Section: FPO President Fergus reminded everyone about prevention week October 9 – 15. The NFPA and FEMA websites contain a lot of information. Chief Braga asked what the theme was; **A)**“Protect your family from fire”. Prevention committees/FITF rosters are on the website. If you need the investigation task force, call them through REDCOM. Randy Mulehiem is the task force coordinator and he is working hard on standards and guidelines for all the programs we have. PSA's are going out and are posted to the web. Halloween is the current release. Disaster prep and water safety were just released in both English and Spanish. The website is a work in progress-more to come. Fire Code College is alive and well, meets every other month and is open to all. President Fergus said that the Sonoma County Safety Pals (our version of “Fire Pals”) is moving forward. The first meeting was very well attended and professionally facilitated: thank you AMR. The next meeting is Sept. 21, 10am at AMR – SR. President Collins added it's a great opportunity for all of us to work together. Chief McCormick queried if there was interest among the group to ban fireworks in those remaining jurisdictions that allowed them. He indicated he had significant data from the positive effects of banning fireworks in Santa Rosa. Chief Hoffman asked if non-profits revenue losses amounted to a loss service. Chief McCormick said he does have some information. Chief Anderson said the impacts were cost neutral for Petaluma. FPO President Fergus added the Mayor talked about days of use and fines; Petaluma is still getting pressure to add more days. RP allows 5 days of sales and 5 days of use. Chief McCormick said this last year Santa Rosa had no fireworks related issues. Chief Hoffman added the I-zone (around Petaluma) has been incident free for the last three years. President Collins suggested this would be a good topic to address in a planning workshop for next year to see if there was the collective interest to pursue this. Chief Braga added that Sebastopol has had zero incidents of fireworks or related medicals for the last two years. Chief Braga also said that in Sebastopol as the non-profit goes away or no longer sells fireworks then sales for the specific group will cease.

Operations Section: President DeCarli reported there had been no meeting last month and the next was scheduled for October 11.

District Chiefs: The next meeting is Sept 22, in Monte Rio. Supervisor Efren Carrillo will speak to the group. Quarterly meetings will be discussed. RSVP Charlene or Cyndi at Central Fire.

Volunteer FF Association: Chief Aston reported that most of the meeting was spent on by-law revisions. Operational issues have been removed from these public meetings. Operational meetings will be held

chiefs every other month. Chief Pignoni asked if this is a second Ops group? **A)** No it is an internal group that meets concerning the operations of CSA 40.

REDCOM: Director Luttrell reported of a little strike team activity and I being a good exercise to provide ROSS practice. He added that Chief Braga will be replacing Chief Zanzi on the City rep on the Board. He also shared that the Board's funding approval of the VHF frequencies for \$80,000 has been redirected to the simul-casting of C 2 and 4 by 2012. Director Luttrell said the board has also hired Herb Williams to conduct a study for seeking alternative funding. Finally - the expansion project - it appears that the county is working toward helping REDCOM. We continue to experience issues in Petaluma and are working to fix the issues-progress is being made. President Collins asked if they will be backfilling the analyst position. Chief Braga responded by thanking the group for their support over the years as the analyst and that the Board had asked the position's description be re-written and a RFP go out to the member agencies. President Collins asked by not purchasing the frequencies, do we lose a window of opportunity to purchase in the future? **A)** After the County conducted their radio study they discovered that frequency pairs that could be utilized to reduce the need and the subsequent bigger issue is the need for simul-cast. REDCOM will still need to pursue frequency pairs, but that is something more for the county radio group to address. Chief Aston inquired as to the funding sources. **A)** \$150,000 from sheriff, \$80,000 from REDCOM and \$100,000 from Coast Life Support. Director Luttrell also said he needs to meet with Dennis Smiley in order to make sure we are on board with the SO. President Collins extended his appreciation for all the work that analyst Braga had done for the group.

CAD Group: Next meeting on October 18th at Central Fire, 10am.

OES Operational Area: Chief Williams reported on the first strike deployment in 2-½ years, which left Monday morning to the Breckenridge Fire. Active status was used and some access issues were reported. Use of the website is still an issue for some. Chief Northern said the reminder to active status was a courtesy but each agency is responsible to maintain their own status. The Ops group is responsible for the certification/maintenance of STL (Interested persons need to enter CICCIS system Chief Aston processes the application and the Department Chief approves, and then Chief Williams gives the information to Ken Reese to enter into ROSS). Chief Northern asked if we need to refine the time period; 0800 or midnight? **A)** 0800 so it ties into shift change timing. Chief Williams added that the fall Region II meeting is toward the end of November and that Chief Cooper passed away. Chief Aston said he needs to members to fill vacancies on the County CICCIS committee. The District Rep is Dan George and Chief Mark McCormick said he would provide a rep from the City.

County Fire: Chief Aston reported the Fire Act grant had been extended to Oct 23rd. County is working on several grants and it has been relatively quiet and that they are working on a lot of administrative issues.

EMCC: Dean Anderson reported little activity this period. The EMCC is going through the process of confirming the committee's representation. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct 24.

Legislation: Chief Aston reported the Legislature is on a break but the most recent SRA fee revisions died in both houses. Newer SRA fee revisions might come back.

The SRA fee discussion was taken up now. Chief Streblov said that in the absence of any amendments the original SRA fees will go into effect but there is still a lot of work. They are between a rock and a hard spot with \$50 million needed to make Cal Fire whole with \$200 million more next year. While not created by Cal Fire, they are required to implement them (and take all the heat). Given the Board of Forestry amendments, it will be interesting to see what the Board's appointments will be in the future since there was a divergence from what the current administration wanted them to do. It was felt that many now realize the impacts of this legislation. The state is trying to minimize the Cal Fire impact to the general fund. Chief Northern said he was surprised by the number of concerned citizens that approached him in Forestville. President Collins asked if the BOE will still send out bills in September? **A)** So far it sounds

like they will. President Collins thanked Chief Streblov for his help and we understand the position he is in. President Collins handed out the talking points that are being used. Chief Treanor thanked President Collins and Chief Northern for the well written article in the press.

Now back to Leg: Chief Aston added most of the retirement bills have been vetted for the next round, but the public referendums are still out there. AB 1387 (formerly AB 210) new name for 1797. et al...

Grants: Chief Anderson said the Chiefs Association grant was submitted for simul-casting and \$40,000 for GIS and AVL's (automatic vehicle locators) for the trains.

SRJC Advisory: President Collins reported that November 3rd is the next meeting. President Collins also reported that JC fee increases are on hold for now.

CHP Liaison: Previously reported

Red Cross: No report

Marin Chiefs Liaison: Chief Williams said the meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (9-15-11) and he will attend.

Cal Fire: Chief Streblov reported of a significant amount of recent lightning activity but due to the high levels of precipitation there were only 108 fires in northern California out of thousands of strikes. The unit is down 18 Engines, but most should be returning home soon. A new fire near Lone Pine went to 2000 acres in a very short time. The LNU has an additional \$16 million in reductions to make at the unit level – the only way to make cuts now is to cut people. Air base reductions are also possible, but reductions at Sonoma are not likely. The Federal Government is also looking at reducing the number of air bases, maybe they will coordinate so the same bases are not closed. The new Cloverdale station should be ready by the next fire season. Chief Streblov reported on the Cal Fire transport traveling in Jameson Canyon being targeted by a small vehicle for a suicide attempt. Unfortunately the driver also caused the injuries to 8 other people in two other cars as a result of their actions.

Fire Safe Sonoma (FSS): Caerleon Safford reported the "Chippers ahoy" program is about done. There are 100 unbilled projects and most of the money is spent. All told, 729 acres (500 projects) were treated with Santa Rosa the winner with 174 acres. Sebastopol had 50 projects, and others. It was a great project and helped a lot of folks that would have not done it (or been able too) otherwise. Let Caerleon know if there were any contractor issues. FSS still has dollars available for roadside fuel reduction, they are looking for board members and would like to update the "Living with Fire" booklet. B/C DeCarli asked what the drop dead date was for funding **A**) When the money runs out. One spot might need more work than another which means more impact on dollars, it is possible that fifty or so projects might qualify. FSS has its own chipper. Staffing is an option if you provide it. Chief Hoffman suggested that Cal Fire's safe work practices might help as a use guide. President Collins recognized Caerleon for her efforts and hard work.

Old Business-

SRA Fees (discussed during legislative update)

New EMS Agency Fees: Chief Garcia reported that in lieu of a letter, he, Chief Anderson and B/C Epperson met with Public Health Services Director Rita Scardacci. It was a productive meeting. Chiefs Anderson and Garcia explained the proposed fee is not just a simple pass through expense; in order to collect additional amounts would need to be added. Public Health said they are going to look at what the fee is intended to fund and determine if they can go without it and look for other alternatives. President Collins informed the group that he had invited Rita to our meetings.

W/O Revised By-Laws: President Collins reported that since our last regular meeting President Collins, and Chiefs Grinnell and Treanor did a little more work in the document. A copy has been posted to the web. With no comments from the membership, President Collins reminded them it would come back for a vote at the October 12 night meeting with the VFC's.

Nominating committee: Chiefs Aston and Williams have not met but they have put the word out and are looking for interested individuals. This item will be discussed again next month.

New Business-

AB 1387 (Formerly AB 210 and reported during legislative update-now a two year bill) This Bill may or may not change those fire agencies providing medical/transport services prior to 1980.

Improving Efficiencies: Chief Northern discussed an email sent to him by D/C Bullard from Graton. The email contained information regarding FSTI and Chief Northern asked the group if anyone used them for training materials? None did. Forestville used IFSTA as does everyone else. FSTI is providing free training materials to agencies. A draft agreement was handed out and the TO's will review.

Customer Service – Chief Northern introduced Forestville's Chief candidate, Max Ming. Max must complete a background investigation. Max has been with Forestville Fire for 27 years total. Max should be appointed in December if all goes well. President Collins welcomed Max to the group.

Chief Hoffman informed the group that VFIR 26 has a conflict with REDCOM and should not be used locally.

President Collins congratulated Chief Aston for a great job during the Board of Supervisors 9-11 presentation as well as the nice presentations for Chiefs Collier, Zanzi, and Emergency Services Coordinator Sandy Covall-Alves.

Good of the order: None

Closed Session: None

Adjourned: 11:31

Next Meeting: October 12 – Forestville, night meeting...joint meeting no dinner...1800...