



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 10th, at 0830 AM
Kenwood FD

ATTENDANCE

Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire	Caerleon Safford	Permit Sonoma
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire
Jeff Valiquette	Rancho Adobe Fire	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista Fire
Mike Medeiros	Petaluma Fire	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg Fire
Lance McDonald	Healdsburg Fire	Bill Bullard	Graton Fire
Marshall Turbeville	Northern Sonoma County	Jack Thomas	Santa Rosa Fire
Bonnie Plakos	NSCFD	James Salvante	CVEMSA
Aaron Johnson	RPPS	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire
Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire	Eric Matzen	RPPS
Dave Bray	Gold Ridge Fire	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
Ben Nicholls	Cal Fire	Doug Williams	
Evonne Stevens	REDCOM		

Call to Order: at 0830hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Akre

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Akre and Bellach welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Akre reported his report will be part of the FSWG report.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Busch , 2nd: Lacy , All Aye

Treasurer's Report: Hans reported

Chief's Fund	\$4,569.07
Survivor's Fund	\$96,396.31
Special Assessment Fund	\$949.56
Training Officers Fund	\$3,286.61
FPO General Fund	\$4,113.55
FPO Safety Trailer Fund	\$15,481.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$4,071.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$569.97
Safety Pals General Fund	\$16,168.51
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00

Total Funds \$147,235.89

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Caerleon Safford presented on the County Vegetation Grants and up and coming requests.

Paws as Loving Support Wellness Program: Eric Strom spoke about the non-profit group that will supply dogs free of charge to come in and do some de-stressing for peer support.

Old Business: FSWG Update: Chief Akre reported they have been meeting weekly and have been doing a lot of work developing a work plan and priorities. The Business Round Table Measure is still a threat. It is not polling very well right now and there is a hope there could be some negotiations between the Legislature, Governor, and the Business Round Table to not have it on the ballot in November. If AC813 passes, then it would require the measure to pass with a 2/3rds vote. The retroactivity piece that would affect our measure may not even hold up in court. There will be opportunities for others to participate in groups that will be established at a later time. The FSWG has proposed to SCFCA an Executive Director job description position and to hire Daina Hampson (McKnight) who has been our consultant for the last 5 years. This would be an hourly position at a rate of \$175 per hour (15-20 hours per week). If the workload becomes more consistent, we could explore to a monthly fixed rate. Her current hourly rate has been \$150 per hour for a number of years. The funding for this position has been allocated from Measure H. This position will support the SCFCA with the work we need to do for the measure to make sure funds are spent appropriately as well as supporting all the fire agencies receiving the funds. Chief Akre called for a motion to accept the Executive Director job description, Motion: Valiquette, 2nd: Lacy, all AYE. Chief Akre called for another motion to give the FSWG the authority to enter into a professional services contract with Daina Hampson at a rate not to exceed \$175 hr. Motion: Valiquette, 2nd: Busch, all AYE. The Working Group has 3 levels of priorities for their work stream. Priority 1 is SCFCA Measure H operations & structure (contract staff, Bylaws update, etc.), Financial resources for agencies, likely including potential workshops, work with the County to update the tax exchange agreements & funding contracts, if necessary (our current Treasurer is not interested nor has the capacity to take on this workload) and a communications plan, which could include a joint information center. Priority 2 is the vegetation management process and structure, work with the County to operationalize the oversight committee, REDCOM: Dispatch fees and command center, Lexipol fees funding process, and one-time gap funding/discretionary funding process. Priority 3 is Fire Safe Sonoma contract, explore new standardized fire station "menu", Continue efforts to optimize the permit process with PRMD, recruitment & training programs, Red Flag & winter storm upstaffing funding process, and ongoing new countywide technologies identification & implementation process.

Reconsideration of the state of emergency with REDCOM: Chief Akre asked the group if they wanted to end the state of emergency with REDCOM or wait until all the work was completed. The overall feeling of the group was to wait until next months meeting do discuss and see where they are with the work being done.

New Business: Accept the Executive Director job description, Motion: Valiquette, 2nd: Lacy, all AYE. Chief Akre called for another motion to give the FSWG the authority to enter into a professional services contract with Daina Hampson at a rate not to exceed \$175 hr. Motion: Valiquette, 2nd: Busch, all AYE.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: See old business.

SMART: No report

PG & E: No report

Fire Districts/Volunteer Fire Foundation: No report

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported starting April 27th they will have one engine per battalion. By June 10th there will be one engine per station staffed and by June 24th have everyone back on. The 2 EU copters will be back with one here at the end of June and the second one sometime in July. The Chinook copter will be a night capable copter from 12 noon to 0200. All the helitack crews have completed the night vision training. They are up to three additional seasonal DSI's. That will be in Monte Rio pushing out to Pocket Canyon, then out to Sea Ranch, East side of Santa Rosa and then down into the Sonoma Valley.

Zone 3: Chief Bellach reported the board created a new District Administrative Officer position the application period closes on April 19th. This week Kenwood and Sonoma's consolidation committees will meet and start talking about the next steps. Moving forward with our septic upgrade this summer. Starting to take a look at our station remodel and see what we will need to do. Looking at 3.0 staffing now that the measure passed.

Chief Akre reported they are doing an open and continuous recruitment for firefighter medic entry level and lateral. They published this week the flyer for fire mechanic to add a 2nd fire mechanic. Jason Cambell has been moved into a temporary administrative captain position. They hired an administrative assistant that starts next Monday. Are currently specking a rural type 1 engine at \$1 million that is 2-3 years out. They are looking at land to purchase and relocate station 2.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: Chief Turbiville reported they have a lot of good things happening with vegetation management. May 19th is the fire and earthquake expo in Cloverdale. They are working on a tour of the geysers for firefighters on May 14th.

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported they had 4 graduate from the academy last week and now have 6 in the new academy. Chief Matt Dahl will be retiring on May 9th. The SAFER Squads should be on the street around July 1st. Station 5 should break ground this Monday. Station 8 should go out to bid next Friday. Still have seven type 1's and two type 6's on order. This year they will be funding an explorer post.

Chief Busch reported EOA 1 seems to be doing ok. Making sure the data coming from First Watch is correct. They flew an Administrative position and received 47 applicants and interviews start this week. They currently have 7 in backgrounds right now. They have a couple of type 3's and type 1's that will be arriving in the next 3-6 months.

Zone 8: Chief Bray reported they have been successful in filling the Driver Operator 1A and 1B classes. Company Officer 2D class announcement will be coming out in a few days.

Zone 9: Chief Johnson reported they are on week 3 of the BC 99 coverage. The SRJC Fire Academy has 40 spots available. State Fire Training will be increasing the instructor to student ratio. This will cause it to be very instructor demanding. If your agency has professional experts on Fire Control 3 and 4, they will need help in these areas.

Chief Valiquette reported they had a vehicle accident with an electric vehicle that opened and dislodged the batteries into water. The batteries would not stop smoking and after some research they decided to leave them to smoke for 2 days and cover them with a salvage cover with barrier tape until it could be towed. This is a heads up to everyone, what do we do with this new technology. They are doing a lot of preplanning on Measure H funding and how to implement the funds.

OES: No report

Training OP's: Chief Busch reported they met last week. They talked about some REDCOM policy changes. They talked about numbering water assets such as jet skis. Some of the members participated in active attacker that DEM put on in Santa Rosa. The outcome was we are not coordinated on the fire side for equipment.

FPO's: Devon reported they met on the 20th of last month. One of the topics of discussion was legislation for AB 2433 which could impact agencies if plan reviews are not completed at a timely fashion of 30 days. There are Inspector 2 series classes that are in the works and about halfway through them. In May Petaluma will be hosting a vehicle fire investigation class. There will be a joint training with county building officials in June. They will be looking at emergency two-way communications in buildings. The next FPO meeting will be May 15th in Sonoma Valley. FITF recently met and they discussed their bylaws that have not been updated since 2018. They have drafted some changes that they will bring to the group at a later date. Remember the call outs have to be done through REDCOM via the IC and will need the following information: Contact name and number, type of incident, number of investigators needed, incident location, and type of response being immediate need or needed at first daylight. There must be an investigator of record from your own agency. The youth fire setter prevention course will be hosted in Santa Rosa in July.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported the dinner and meeting will be next week at Sally Tomatoes hosted by Rancho Adobe FD. The program will be the Whites Group which does capital funding for public agencies. Reserve funds for districts should be moved from unassigned accounts to committed accounts due to the concern with the States budget situation, this could be something else that they employ to try to grab some onetime funds from. If you have FRMS as a workers comp, they have a contracted price for a number of different vendors to do annual physicals.

Vegetation Management: Steve Mosiurchak reported the chipping program is up and running. The DSI Inspection program started, and all the mailers went out. There have been no complaints about the database.

Coastal Valley EMS: James reported they have posted updated treatment guidelines to the website. Please take a look at those. EMCC is coming up this month on Monday the 22nd at the Department of Health services. The behavioral health summit will be held in May that DHS will be hosting. May 19th and 20th will be the CFED preconference. Day one will be current topics for Fire Chiefs and day two will be EMS. The regular conference will start on the 21st.

CAL Chiefs Chief Akre reported they are still really active on the legislative front and have reestablished a legislative task force that meets monthly. A policy on artificial intelligence was adopted last week. There was concern that AI technology is not foolproof and can be problematic. This policy requires anything for Cal Chiefs that uses any type of artificial intelligence platform, before any information gets sent out there has to be a human element to that information.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: Chief Schach reported they are working on the EMT scope increase and how to fix the Igel situation. They are working on better communication and support with CVEMS.

DEM: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Akre reported he attended a resent tsunami tabletop exercise hosted by DEM, it was a good exercise and there is a lot of cross over on how we manage that type of an incident. The overhead refresher is on May 29th.

REDCOM: Evonne reported there are 5 repeaters left to do the installation on. All agencies are back on their respective channels. She asked if we could take off the state of emergencies for Control 2 and 4. The expansion project is up and running. They are looking at 3 potential plans right now. Kenney is still out on a leave, but is working from home when he can, he appreciates and thanks everyone for the support.

Good of the Order: Chief Valiquette stated it looks like there is going to be another jump in Type 3's on emissions. Maybe a \$60k to \$100k increase.

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: @ 1130hrs

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2024, at Sebastopol FD 0830hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary