

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chief Skiles. The flag was saluted.
 2. Roll Call- The following agencies were present:

Chief Barrett	CalFire
Chief Curnow	Denair Fire
Chief Miguel	Modesto Fire
Chief Skiles	Salida Fire
Chief Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire
Chief Jackson	Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office
Director Kimball	West Stanislaus Fire District
- *There were not enough representatives to form a quorum.

Also present – Mike Kraus, Mike Payton, Modesto Fire; Bill Houk, Ken Slamon, Matthew Jenkins, Mimi DeSimoni, Fire Warden's Office, Ed Bartley, Chad Homme, Saldia Fire; Gary Cortes, Oakdale Fire; and Dennis Wister, Stanislaus County Building Department.

3. Public Comment – No public comment
4. Minutes – There were no comments, there was no quorum for approval of minutes.
5. Staff Committee Reports
 - 5.1 Management, fiscal, legislative- Chief Skiles reported on meetings with 4 of the Supervisors. He discussed some misunderstandings about the Fire Authority and the Business Plan. He discussed how Mimi prepared a 5 year forecast to show the planned use of the current fund balance. Mimi discussed property tax apportionments not yet posted, and assessed valuations available on line. A meeting was attended by several districts regarding Developer Fee collections by the Building Department. The group is meeting with Dennis Wister next week.
 - 5.2 Investigations – The first full month of the 2nd call investigator being available on a call out basis has been completed. Please let Modesto Fire know if there are any concerns or problems with the program. The monthly report was distributed.
 - 5.3 Fire Prevention – The monthly activity report was distributed. There was discussion regarding stored water requirements. He would like to see some standardization. Salida is working on a fact-sheet and information to put on their web-site.
 - 5.4 Communications –Chad Homme gave a summary of monthly activities: CAD continues to move forward rapidly, 3 agencies requested radio reprogramming, work continues on paging tone plan, reminded everyone of hands-free cell phone communication coming in July; CHP information on this topic was

made available, Chad attended GIS training compliments of CalFire. There were questions and discussion on satellite phones, Chad will look into that. Chief Skiles highly recommended attendance at the next Communications Advisory Committee on May 13th.

- 5.5 Training – Capt. Bartley discussed Wild Land ‘08. An overview of the exercise will be available. He gave an outline of upcoming training. NWCG S190 training will be available on a CD soon. FDAC training is coming in July. At least 10 agencies continue to be involved each month in Training Officers.
- 5.6 Special Operations – Chief Houk gave an update on Swift Water Rescue Policy. He has met with 5 agencies to look at their Special Operations policies. He requested that every agency return the FEMA Hazard Profile form he gave them.

6 . Agenda Items

- 6.1 Weed Abatement – Chief Slamon gave a refresher on the Weed Abatement Program. He distributed a packet including sample letters, postings, and a copy of the County Ordinance. He discussed the process, and the fact that the County cannot enforce their Ordinance within the cities.
- 6.2 Operational Area Coordinator – Chief Jackson discussed information pertaining to the upcoming fire season and the Operational Area Coordinators meeting coming up; he is willing to take anyone along that is interested. The pre-fire season meeting was held yesterday. CalFire TCU, SCU, Consolidated Fire, Salida Fire, Oakdale Rural Fire and the Fire Warden’s Office attended. He gave an overview of their discussions.
- 6.3 Stanislaus County Decision making process- This item was pulled; Chief Wilkinson provided handouts for those that were not in attendance at the Chief’s meeting last week.
- 6.4 Standardization process for policies and procedures – Chief Skiles provided a presentation of the process we have used, though not formally documented, on how we adopt standards for the County fire agencies. He pointed to the fact that agencies within the County do things differently, but services that are provided regionally should be standardized. A five step plan was outlined starting with the formation of a procedure, adoption of a regional policy, adoption by local agencies, regional training, recording of certs /quals or administrative tracking. This process does not require local agencies to adopt every regional policy; they may not provide those services. There was discussion but no action could be taken due to a lack of quorum. It was decided that it would be brought back to the next meeting.
- 6.5 Fire Frequency Sharing – Chad Homme talked about how they have been working on a draft policy for SR911, on Fire Frequency Sharing. The intent is to adopt this policy at the June Fire Authority meeting. He requested that each agency review it. It will be discussed again at the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting.
- 6.6 Nominations / Elections Committee: Chief Barrett reported that he did not have any interested individuals at this point in time. Chief Miguel talked to

some individuals, but pointed out how difficult it is to ask a volunteer chief take on these responsibilities; this is a time consuming job. Since it appears that things will remain status quo for the next few years and we will have to work to hold onto the \$300,000, he has no one that is willing to take on the position. Chief Skiles stressed that an important function of these positions is to ensure that the Less Than County-Wide continues to support the Fire Service. There being no nominations, it will be continued until the next meeting. Chief Mayotte stressed his belief that this needs to be a paid position because there is too much of a workload for Chiefs.

7. The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2008 at the RFTC at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mimi DeSimoni
Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office