

Sonoma County Operational Area Emergency Council



Thursday, May 26, 2022

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Via Zoom

Note: Meeting Minutes approved at the December 8, 2023 meeting

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Attendance – Council Members

County CAO Sheryl Bratton	Supervisor Chair James Gore	Bryan Cleaver, Emergency Medical Systems
Dawn Carter, Santa Rosa Junior College	Neil Bregman, City of Santa Rosa	Missy Brunetta, Sonoma State University
Christopher Godley, Department of Emergency Management (DEM)	Chief Charles Funkhouser, United States Coast Guard	Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
Todd Derum, Member-at-large	Sheriff Mark Essick	Kelsey Carreiro City of Healdsburg
Katie Duran City of Cotati	Janell Crane Rep - Human Resources	Tim Mattos, City of Rohnert Park
David Thomas Calif. Highway Patrol	Tennis Wick, Permit Sonoma	Tina Rivera, Department of Health Services
Ben Nicholls, Cal Fire	Jeff Schach City of Petaluma	Angela Struckman, Human Services Department
Erin Tarkhanian, Sonoma County Office of Education	Sarah Finnigan, Calif. Office of Emergency Services	Trish Pisenti General Services and Public Works

Non-Council Members in Attendance

Sonja Moug, DEM	Dagny Thomas, DEM	Sam Wallis, DEM
Nancy Brown, DEM	Sage Limpp, DEM	Sheri Lang, DEM
Tiffany Coe, DEM	Barbara Sattler, Public	Carly Sullivan - EMS
Steven Hancock – Water Agency	Erika Alfaro, Public	Evan Cherne, Public
Keith Roberts, Public	Max Bell Apler, Public	Mechelle Perea-Ryan, Public
Michelle Maxwell, Public	Molly Parker, Public	Davin Cardenas, Public
Phone in – 510 507-0374	Phone in – 707 486-4172	<i>Purposely left blank</i>

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order by Chris Godley @ 1:02 P.M.
- b. Supervisor Gore provided opening remarks including brief history of the Emergency Council and speculation on how to proceed going forward.

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum / Approve Agenda

- a. Christopher Godley conducted verbal roll call. Quorum achieved with 23 members of the Council in attendance.
- b. Agenda approved by all present with no changes.

Ayes: 23 Nays: 0

III. Approve Minutes

The last Council meeting was November 2021. Meeting minutes were provided in the meeting package that was given to all Council members. Christopher Godley moved to accept the minutes as written, Sheryl Bratton seconded. Motion passed with the following votes:

Ayes: 23 Nays: 0

IV. Old Business

- a. **COVID-19 Pandemic Response Update:** County Public Health Director Tina Rivera, along with Epidemiologist Kathryn Pack, provided an update on the current status of the County in regard to COVID-19.
 - i. Sonoma County is the 9th highest county in the state in regards to people being fully vaccinated, at 78.9%
 - ii. Sonoma County has seen a significantly lower mortality rate than other counties in California
 - iii. There have been 68 COVID related deaths since the beginning of 2022
 - iv. Testing shows an 11.8% overall test positivity
 - v. Although positive tests are increasing, hospitalizations are not
 - vi. There are more variants of COVID. The variants are more transmissible, but are not as dangerous as previous variants
 - vii. Dept. of Health Services is working on an After-Action Report for their department, also looking towards possibly demobilizing. They are working to determine their internal capacity and how best to integrate

work with Department of Emergency Management. They are also working to create an RFP for medical services at emergency congregate shelters.

viii. Supervisor Gore spoke in response to the update, he would like to possibly see an annex for pandemic response in order to outline future response and to share what was learned in the last two years.

b. **Drought:** Grant Davis from the Sonoma County Water Agency provided an updated drought status for the County.

- i. We are currently at approximately 50k acre feet in Lake Mendocino - we are ahead of last year. Trying to stay above 20k acre feet
- ii. Water Agency has filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition to State Water Control Board asking for a 20% reduction in diversion
- iii. Water Agency and Department of Emergency Management are looking to expand the Drought Task Force and address new state requirements regarding planning for small water systems
- iv. Lake Sonoma is at approximately 140k acre feet – slightly lower than last year and below historical averages
- v. Trying to stay localized with drought response
- vi. Supervisor Gore spoke in response to the Drought Update
- vii. Todd Derum asked how close are we to mandatory curtailments and was told by Grant Davis that the state is considering mandatory reductions

c. **Revision of Council Mission & Membership:** Christopher Godley spoke regarding the utility of the Council and converting to a more operational forum. Previously there were discussions about possible changes for the Council, but those discussions were cut short due to ongoing responses to overlapping disasters.

- i. Op Area has done work regarding shelter capabilities including addressing shortages in equipment and staff
- ii. Grants are pulling down traditional and non-traditional grants
- iii. County has expanded access for the incorporated cities to work with WebEOC software, as well as order resources.
- iv. Rolling out consolidated EOC staff training, which will be available to City and Special District partners
- v. City of Healdsburg has hired an Emergency Manager; City of Petaluma is in the process of hiring an Emergency Manager. Those two cities, combined with County and City of Santa Rosa, means that approximately 78% of the County residents now reside in jurisdictions with a full-time Emergency Manager

- vi. Asked to remove the Action Item to Revise Council Scope of Work from the agenda due to the fact that it will not be addressed in the next 6 months due to ongoing potential disaster related projects.
- vii. Supervisor Gore agreed, suggesting that we move towards a Risk-Reduction Authority, possibly comparing to neighboring counties. Possibly a multi-hazard Risk-Reduction Authority. Open for discussion if not now, possibly later this year.

V. New Business

- a. **Wildfire Season 2022:** Christopher Godley presented that temperatures are projected to be well above normal while precipitation is lower than average. From the fire Authorities: “Confidence is high for an early start to the large fire season.”
 - i. Energy Release Component Chart – how much heat fuels will produce if they catch fire. We are now almost to record levels for the ERC values.
 - ii. Chief Ben Nichols: Provided an update as to precipitation, weather, the ERC values, and the Fuel Moisture levels. Also provided information as to the number of fires and the amount of acres in comparison to last year. Provided an update as to CalFire staffing levels, including rigs and aircraft. They are up-staffing early in comparison to previous years. Most likely will bring more crews locally by August.

VI. County Evacuation Zone Access Ad Hoc

- a. Christopher Godley gave a brief synopsis of the Ad Hoc committee that was formed by the Board of Supervisors in February of this year. The committee is looking to develop an Evacuation Zone Access plan, with an eye to mitigating financial losses to Agricultural and Livestock operations while maintaining safety.
 - i. Unified and uniform method to identify qualified commercial agriculture farm owner-operators, livestock producers, and their employees
 - ii. Potentially allow owners/employees limited access to areas that may be restricted to general public in order to evacuate, shelter, feed, water, care for livestock and/or irrigate crops; fuel emergency generators, conduct critical harvest/processing activity; and provide auxiliary support to peace officers and emergency personnel
 - iii. Possibly could be a three year interim program (2022 – 2025)
 - iv. Must comply with new state law AB1103 (Livestock pass)
 - v. Challenging concept – this may or may not be completed prior to 2022 fire season.

VII. Continuing Business

- a. **Community Preparedness:** Dr. Nancy Brown of DEM presented an update on Community Preparedness.
 - i. Community Preparedness messaging has been completed for this season, information to be found at SoCoEmergency with multiple messages regarding Disaster Preparedness. Messages are available for community partners to share; they can also be co-branded by other entities.
 - ii. Common messages provides consistent information.
 - iii. In-person Library workshops are scheduled for the summer, along with many other events in other areas.
 - iv. Hoping for grant funding to develop a Countywide CERT program.

- b. **Operational Areal Exercises and Training:**
 - i. State webinar regarding drought and small water systems
 - ii. 06/15 - Annual Wildfire Meeting & Exercise
 - iii. 06/18 – Community Evacuation Exercise, Cazadero
 - iv. County Training for EOC Staff and DSW awareness.

- c. **Grants:** Sheri Lang of DEM provided an overview of the status of the existing grants:
 - i. Homeland Security (SHSGP) FY2019: seven projects, 1 active; FY2020: 20 projects, 7 complete, 13 active; FY2021: 17 active projects.
 - ii. Hazard Mitigation (HMPG) Recent modification to lower the dollar request for the fire cameras project, hoping to wrap up project at beginning of next year.
 - iii. UASI: \$70k earmarked for conference attendees. There are 3 more conferences that qualify, information has been sent out to the Op Area
 - iv. UASI - 2022/2023 Submitted and waiting for approvals
 - v. SHSGP 2022 - Submitted for \$600k
 - vi. 2022 also submitted for High Frequency Communications Equipment for Op Area EOC
 - vii. Also submitted an application for Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers Program (replacement filters for existing air cleaners)
 - viii. CDBG-DR (HUD) – Five grant applications pending approval

VIII. Public comment: There were no comments.

- IX. Member Announcements: Neil Bregman (City of Santa Rosa) announced that the City of Santa Rosa is in the process of doing their five-year EOP revision, including the major part of the SB160 requirements (although they are not required to do so). They received a \$1M grant to update their EOC with a projected 2–3 year completion timeline; they completed a wildfire tabletop exercise and have scheduled an EOC drill with their mayor

and vice-mayor. They have also scheduled an EOC Field Communications practice exercise at various levels of “disaster”.

- X. Chief Jeff Schach of Petaluma stated that the City of Petaluma has also updated their EOP and that they are in recruitment for an Emergency Manager, also stated that they are interested in any EOC trainings.
- XI. Sarah Finnigan from CalOES spoke to the upcoming Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committee (MARAC) meeting as well as their internal promotions and current staffing vacancies. She noted the good work that Sonoma County has done with the revised EOP and stated that Sonoma County has been one of eight counties chosen to be reviewed by the state
- XII. Supervisor Gore closed the meeting with thoughts towards remembering and acknowledging the events of the past five years and the resolve of the communities to stay strong in the face of challenges.
- XIII. Move to adjourn: Chief Schach Motioned, Neil Bregman seconded.
 - a. 23 Ayes 0 Nays
- XIV. Next meeting date to be determined.

Adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Attachment 1: Sonoma County Emergency Council Background

Authority

Established by Sonoma County Municipal Code (Chapter 10, Section 10-7). Authorized under California Government Code (Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7, Article 10).

Missions

1. Study, revise and recommend to the Board of Supervisors for adoption, the County/Operational Area Emergency Plan
2. Review and recommend action upon all proposed mutual aid agreements
3. Review and recommend adoption of ordinances, resolutions, and rules/regulations as may be necessary to implement the plan or mutual aid agreements.
4. Annually review goals and objectives for the county/operational area.
5. May recommend calling and conducting test exercises.
6. Approve any of county/operational area funding distribution proposals (grants) as required by CalOES.
7. Serve as Operational Area Citizen Corps Council (grant requirement)

Membership

Primarily local government agency representatives with some community organization participation (up to 33 potential members total).

Officers

The Chair of Board Supervisors serves as ex officio Chair. In their absence, the County Administrator (in their role as the County Director of Emergency Services) to serve. A member of the Department of Emergency Management serves as ex officio Secretary.

By-laws

None. County Code states: majority vote; quorum to conduct business is calculated at the time of the meeting based on the number of representatives appointed; may appoint committees.

Meeting Schedule

At least semiannually.

Attachment 2: Sonoma County Emergency Council Membership

1. The chair of the board of supervisors of the county
2. The director or designee (County Administrator)
3. The County director of the department of emergency services or designee
4. The County sheriff or designee
5. The County director of general services or designee
6. The County director of information systems or designee
7. The County director of the department of health services or designee
8. The County director of human resources or designee
9. The County director of human services or designee
10. The County director of permit and resource management department or designee
11. The County director of the department of transportation and public works or designee
12. The general manager of the Sonoma County water agency or designee
13. The Regional Manager of Coast Valleys EMS agency or designee
14. One (1) representative from each of the incorporated cities within the County, appointed from time to time by the respective city councils
23. One (1) member representing the public utilities within the County engaged in the transmission of power, gas, telephonic or telegraphic communications or other similar utility, appointed annually by the chair of the emergency council
24. One (1) member representing the public schools in the County appointed annually by the Sonoma County superintendent of schools
25. One (1) member representing the general public appointed annually by the chair of the emergency council
26. One (1) member representing the local chapter of the American Red Cross
27. One (1) representative from the California National Guard
28. One (1) representative from the U.S. Coast Guard Two Rock Training Center
29. One (1) representative from each specific state agency utilized in County's emergency response including, but not limited to, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (Cal- Fire), California Highway Patrol (CHP), and California Office of Emergency Services (OES)
32. One (1) representative from any signatory party of the Operational Area Agreement in force, not previously identified herewithin