



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Sunday February 19, 2012 9:00 am

LOCATION: Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road Napa, CA

ATTENDANCE: Greg Holquist (Chair), Bill Robertson (Secretary / Treasurer), Carole Meredith, Gary Margadant, Steve Levine, Gary Green, Bill Crowley, Kathy Crowley, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, CALFIRE Battalion Chief Mike Parkes

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: January 15, 2012 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

1. **Funding from NCFE:** Greg Holquist reported on the additional funding from the county. Greg feels that there may be a difficulty in obtaining the funding. He has not heard anything back from the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (Stephen Gort or Darren Drake) as of yet. According to Mike Parkes, the Atlas Peak contingency received theirs and the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council is ready to go. Joanne Sutro suggested we ask if the other funds were not going to be used, we could use them instead. Greg will follow up with Darren Drake on this coming Tuesday. Joanne also suggested that we have two plans in which Plan A would utilize crews from Delta Camp and Plan B would use mechanized equipment from a private contractor.

There seems to be a miscommunication between the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation and the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council that needs to be resolved in order to obtain the funding and get started on the Old Ridge Road project. Mike Parkes mentioned that if inmate labor was to be used on this project separate permission slips from the property owners need to be approved by the Department of Corrections in order for them to work on private property.

2. **Firewood:** Greg stated that there was a breakdown between the contractor and PG&E. Greg intends to go ahead with the storing and splitting of firewood at the Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire Station. The firewood would benefit the MVFSC as an additional

fundraiser for fire safe projects and more firewood is coming. Joanne likes the idea of involving other community groups and that it may be an opportunity for more community involvement. Steve Levine mentioned a training opportunity for residents in the area to learn about chainsaw safety. If Davey Tree provided the training, would they provide the gear. Bill Robertson and Gary Green mentioned that there is a concern of liability of people using powered equipment on the Fire Station premises. This will be put off for a future discussion. Steve Levine mentioned going to companies such as Napa Power Equipment to see if they would support such a task and perhaps donate. Greg has already contacted the Boy Scouts and will keep the MVFSC informed.

3. Greg Holquist announced he is stepping down as Chairman of the Board for the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council due to a recent promotion at his job. He will still be involved with the firewood endeavor and the Old Ridge Road Project.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Robertson reported that the change over from UMPQUA Bank to RaboBank has been complete. Since Greg has stepped down, Bill is the only signer on the checking account. The current balance is \$21,175.02.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Grants:** The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council met with the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation Board on February 19th at the Napa Chamber of Commerce. Greg Holquist gave the presentation with PowerPoint for the Old Ridge Road Pilot Project. The MVFSC is now waiting to see if money would be awarded for this project. Members of the MVFSC that attended were Greg Holquist, Gary Green, Kelly Wallace, Bill Robertson, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, Gary Margadant and Steve Levine. It is hoped that at least \$20,000 would be awarded for this shaded fuel break project.
2. **Events:** Greg Holquist stated that the Golf Tournament for this year would be cancelled. He said because of his new job he would not have the time to coordinate this event. Joanne suggested a donation letter drive to try to solicit donations from the community and perhaps raffle prizes such as golf packages. Gary Green expressed his concern about such a successful event losing its momentum and also having competing raffles going on at the same time between the MVFSC and HWC. Carole Meredith suggested another fundraiser type should be considered. Gary Green suggested contacting Russell Hamby for bike race information. Greg will also talk to his successor about the golf tournament to see if he would be interested in taking it over. Mike Parkes asked if there was an interest in joining with the Atlas Peak Group in having a joint golf tournament.
3. **Projects:**
 - a. **Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** Gary Margadant was able to get Chester Brandlins permission to have work done on two parcels that are his part of the Old Ridge Road. So far the property owner permissions we have include Carole

Meredith and Steve Lagier, Dan Galvin, Chester Brandlin and Mike and Barbara Kossen. Greg Holquist will contact Darren Drake from NCFE and Captain John Leighton from Delta Camp for hand crew labor. Greg will also contact Family Tree for a bid. Steve Levine suggested getting bids from non-union companies that would contract the work out hourly.

- b. **Fire Prevention Signs:** Gary Green asked where we were in relocating the Fire Prevention signs. Gary Margadant has the locations picked and needs to meet with the County Road Dept. Gary Green mentioned the signs were retrofitted with wing nuts to keep the insert signs from falling out. He also shared concepts for winter signs and their seasonal relevant messages. Cost of the signs is \$135 a piece. The group decided to go with 6 instead of 4. Mike Parkes would like to see a sign with a message about address numbers.
- c. **The Cove Fuel Reduction Project:** No report. Jock Eggers has not been to a meeting and there has been no feedback from the Girl Scouts as of yet. More work may be done later in the year but as of now this project is on hold.

4. **CWPP:** Annual review postponed until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Website:** Carole Meredith stated that the website is up to date up through December 2011 including the last newsletter. There was discussion of establishing an MVFSC community email list based on Google Groups that people can join. People could elect to subscribe or unsubscribe. Carole would be the primary moderator of the group but others could also be made moderators. This would allow for efficient dissemination of information and could foster discussion among members of the community.
- 2. **By-Laws:** Kelly Wallace and Ken Van Oeveren were not present. Both need to be present when the bylaws are approved and adopted. Kelly would need to send any updated versions or changes.
- 3. **MOU Between Dry Creek-Lokoya Board of Directors and Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council:** Kelly Wallace and Ken Van Oeveren were not present. Both need to be present when the by-laws and MOU are approved and adopted. Kelly would need to send any updated versions or changes.
- 4. **Liability Insurance and Insurance for Board of Directors:** State Farm will not underwrite a policy for the MVFSC. Greg Holquist and Gary Green will check with Malloy Imrie & Vasconi to see if they would cover MVFSC liability.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Election of MVFSC Officers: New officers for 2012 are as follows:
Chairperson (VACANT)

Vice Chairperson - Gary Margadant
Treasurer - Bill Robertson
Secretary - Carole Meredith

2. **Election of Officers to the Dry Creek-Lokoya VFD Board:** Bill Robertson summarized the election results.
3. **2012 Budget:** Postponed until next meeting. Group needs to review categories and come up with ideas.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

ADJOURNMENT: 11:10 am

Next Meeting: Saturday March 24, 2012 at 9:00 am
Dry Creek - Lokoya Fire Station
5900 Dry Creek Rd. Napa, CA 94558