



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, August 25, 2012

LOCATION: Dry Creek – Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department, 5900 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Wayne Cain, Gary Green, Greg Holquist, Carole Meredith, Bill Robertson, Larry Russell, Joanne Sutro, Ken Van Oeveren

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: June 23 minutes were approved

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Gary Green added Item 4 to New Business

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: No report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Robertson reported that the current bank balance is \$19,075. Bill Robertson and Gary Green will work together to add line items to the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Grants:** Bill Robertson reported that there has been no news since our proposal was submitted to the Fire Safe Council Grants Clearing House in July.

Joanne Sutro reported that she has not yet written a funding request letter to Community Projects and that Community Projects had been dark for the summer. She has been collecting news clippings regarding fire safety and the Delta Camp inmate crews.

2. Events:

- a. **Golf Tournament and related activities:** Greg Holquist reported that PG&E did not make a donation to the Clubs for Vets event that was held in August. Greg said that PG&E will no longer fund golf tournaments but they will fund projects, such as MVFSC projects.

Greg has been meeting new potential corporate sponsors and volunteered to take the lead on organizing the 2013 MVFSC Golf Tournament.

- b. **Evaluation of Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break Open House:** About 25 people attended the event, including Napa County Supervisor Mark Luce and longtime Mount Veeder residents Warren Kubler, Alice Kubler, Ann Kubler and Ann Taylor Schwing. A Cal Fire engine and several Cal Fire personnel were also present..

3. Project Updates:

- a. **Wrap up of Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** Kelly Wallace could not be present but did provide an emailed report of the final project expenses. The total amount billed by Burke Vegetation Management was \$18,755, of which our Napa Communities Firewise Foundation grant paid \$16,875 and MVFSC paid \$1,880. NCCFF also erroneously paid \$3,101.28 to the Cal Fire Delta Crews for work at The Cove and Enchanted Hills. The cost of the Enchanted Hills work should not have come out of our NCCFF grant so we were reimbursed \$1,993.68 by Lighthouse for the Blind. So the total amount paid by our NCCFF grant for the Old Ridge Road and Cove work was \$19,976.28.
- b. **Moving Fire Prevention Signs:** It has been several months since Gary Margadant agreed to get these signs moved but they have not been moved. Gary Green will contact Mike Parkes about getting his assistance and convey that information to Gary Margadant. If Gary Margadant cannot do it within a week, Gary Green will proceed with the project.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Plans for firewood sales:** The pile of wood currently at Carole Meredith's property will be cut into lengths and brought to the firehouse. One proposal was that qualified firefighters (those who have completed the S212 Wildland Fire Chain Saws class) go to the property to cut the wood. An alternative proposal was that local residents could come to a chain saw safety class at the firehouse and then cut their own firewood. This second proposal was adopted and the following plans were made:

The chain saw safety class will be conducted by Laszlo Bencsik of Davey Tree. Kelly Wallace volunteered to draft a liability document that participants will be required to sign. Two 90-minute sessions will be offered: 9 to 10:30 am and 10:30 am to 12 noon. Each session will be limited to 3 participants and advance registration will be required. Participants who wish to cut their own firewood to take home must provide their own vehicle to carry the wood and will be asked to make a \$200 per cord donation to the MVFSC.

Three sets of chain saws and safety equipment will be provided by Davey Tree. Participants may use their own saws and safety equipment but only with the approval of the instructor. Two splitters will be required. Wayne Cain offered to provide his own splitter and a second one will be rented.

Gary Green said he would draft a flyer and Carole Meredith will put it on the MVFSC website and send an announcement to the MVFSC community email list.

Gary Green take the lead on cutting and transporting wood from Carole Meredith's property to the firehouse. He will request the assistance of one or two other qualified people who have their own chainsaws and safety equipment.

2. **Removal of duplicate website:** The status of this website is not clear but it cannot readily be found with search engines, so this topic will be removed from future agendas.
3. **Fire road access point update:** Discussion was deferred for the third time because Gary Margadant has not been present to provide an update.
4. **Blog revenue discussion:** Discussion was deferred for the second time because Steve Levine had not been present to present his report. This topic will be removed from future agendas.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Bicycle event:** It was suggested that we consider holding a bicycle race or fun ride as a fundraiser, similar to that held by Strawberry Village. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
2. **Add logos to website:** Larry Russell said that the MVFSC website should display the logos of the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department and the Napa County Fire Department. (The site currently displays only the logos of Cal Fire, PG&E and the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation.) Carole Meredith agreed to add these.
3. **Sign repair:** Gary Green reported that the inserts for our road signs would not fit into the metal runner. As a consequence of this, a sign blew down and was damaged. The sign shop repaired it at no cost and replaced the metal runner with a plastic runner. We have previously had plastic runners and they deteriorated from UV exposure. So can we find a way to protect the new plastic runner from sunlight?
4. **Road numbers:** The block numbers that are painted on the roads need to be re-done. And some of our roads weren't done at all last time. Gary Green will contact Napa County about getting this done.
5. **Other projects to undertake while we wait for funding:**
 - a. **More training/education for MVFSC Board:** Bill Robertson stated that the California Fire Safe Council offers training workshops. He offered to bring new workshop information to each MVFSC meeting.
 - b. **Address numbers for residents:** This has been discussed in the past but not pursued. (Gary Green will ask Beth Dewyer for the information she had previously gathered on this subject.) Purchasing the green 2-sided signs for our approximately 450 residences would cost about \$6,700, but that does not include the cost of installation. Installation logistics and cost, and not just the cost of the numbers, may be the main obstacle for some residents. It was suggested that we might initially focus on a subset of residences, such as specific neighborhoods or residences that have no numbers now, especially multiple residences on long driveways. It was also suggested that we might offer free address numbers to "the first 50 respondents", for example.

It was pointed out that some residents apparently think their address numbers are for the purpose of mail delivery only and do not consider that emergency responders need to find their homes. So education is needed.

- c. **Help residents improve fire safety around their homes:** Gary Green will look into how other Fire Safe Councils (e.g., El Dorado County) have approached this subject, with special regard to residents who are unable to do their own work.
- d. **Explain the rules of burning to residents:** What is an ag burn? What is a burn day? What is a warming fire? Gary Green will find out more about this.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Larry Russell said that the deadline for items for the next newsletter is September 22. Joanne Sutro will prepare a revised version of Roger Archey's article about the Old Ridge Project Open House.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 am

Next Meeting: Saturday September 22, 2012 at 9:00 am
Gary Green's residence, 5410 Dry Creek Road

TO DO LIST:

Gary Green:

- a. Add line items to the budget (with Bill Robertson)
- b. Contact Mike Parkes about moving fire prevention road signs. Convey the information to Gary Margadant and then follow up if GM cannot do within a week. (DONE)
- c. Draft flyer and detailed information about the chain saw safety class for the website (DONE)
- d. Ask Beth Dewyer for the address sign information she gathered when we last discussed this topic
- e. Contact Napa County about re-doing painted numbers on roads
- f. Find out more about programs to help residents improve fire safety around their homes. Look at the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council program.
- g. Add 2013 Golf Tournament to agenda for next meeting (with Carole Meredith)
- h. Add possible bicycle fundraising event to agenda for next meeting (with Carole Meredith)

Carole Meredith:

- a. Put chain saw safety class on the MVFSC website (DONE)
- b. Send announcement about chain saw safety class to MVFSC community email list (DONE)
- c. Add DCLVFD and NCFD logos to website.
- d. Add 2013 Golf Tournament to agenda for next meeting (with Gary Green)
- e. Add possible bicycle fundraising event to agenda for next meeting (with Gary Green)

Bill Robertson:

- a. Add line items to the budget (with Gary Green)
- b. Bring California FSC workshop info to future MVFSC meetings

Greg Holquist:

- a. Prepare to discuss planning for the 2013 MVFSC Golf Tournament at the next meeting

Joanne Sutro:

- a. Prepare revised version of Roger Archey's article about the Old Ridge Road Open House for the DCLVFD newsletter

Gary Margadant:

- a. Arrange for the movement of the Dry Creek Road sign and the installation of two additional signs
- b. Investigate whether the old fire road access points are still viable