



## **MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Saturday, April 26, 2014

**LOCATION:** Carole Meredith's house, 4967 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Robertson, Gary Green, Carole Meredith, Ken Van Oeveren, Stephen Gort

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** none

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** March 22 minutes were approved

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Bill Robertson chaired the meeting in Kelly Wallace's absence. Bill passed along Kelly's request that we discuss two possible contingency plans for the Old Ridge Road project – 1) moving the NCFE funds forward (but Stephen Gort says the funds for this year are already committed) and 2) use of our own funds. But if the Delta Crews are not available, that severely limits our options. Kelly supports our going ahead with our own money as soon as possible. Kelly also said he had met with Kelly Gin regarding support from her organization but that it does not look good.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary Green reported that our current bank balance is \$28,954.73. Seven address signs have been sold. Gary has ordered 6 road signs at \$160.50 each, for a total of \$1040.04 including sales tax. Carole Meredith requested reimbursement of \$119.88 for renewing the GoDaddy shopping cart for the MVFSC website. Gary suggested that in future we should use a MVFSC credit card for this purpose.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **1. Grants:**

- a. 14-USFS-SFA0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** We are still waiting for BLM environmental review. We are also waiting for the CA Fire Safe Council. Stephen Gort said that it can take 9 or 10 months to get federal money. And we cannot spend federal money in advance because it may not come.

He said that we must, in advance, develop an auditable method to track in kind time. He also said that the best way to get the funds is to do a quarterly draw down.

The California Fire Safe Council has 3 categories: 1) here's your money, 2) here are the things you must do within 30 days, and 3) here are the things you must do within 60 days. According to Liron Galliano and Kelly Wallace, we are waiting only for environmental approval. We have not received an award letter, only a pre-award letter.

Money that we're spending for the 5/3 event can count toward our matching requirement because the event constitutes public education. Gort said that we cannot use a MVFSC credit card for grant items. We must track it all separately so we must establish parallel budget items for grant expenses.

- b. **Natural Resources Conservation Service:** nothing to report.
- c. **Napa Community Project:** nothing to report
- d. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation:** Stephen Gort told us that he had planned to spend some of this year's money on a new community. But he might be able to free up \$12,000 to \$15,000 for our project. Gary Green said that would pay for about 5 weeks of the Delta Camp crew, if we can get them. The Delta Crew is not available until after May 5, but we can't schedule them at all until we have money. Gary said he would need about a week's lead time to arrange truck rental and a chipper.

Gort said he would talk to his board on Monday 4/28 to see if he can redirect the money originally intended for the new community to MVFSC instead. And Gort said that if we use NCFE money to do work that is detailed in the CA FSC grant, we can ask later to modify the scope of the CA FSC work.

NCFE now gets \$125,000 from Napa County.

Ken Van Oeveren reported that Malloy Imrie & Vasconi Insurance says that the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department insurance covers MVFSC people too, including medical and liability.

## 2. Events:

- a. **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, May 3:** This will be held at the firehouse in conjunction with the annual Community Pancake Breakfast. Tim Hoyt will not participate because he is now in the commercial section. So the Cal Fire representative will be Amy Head or Steve Hawks. The topics we will cover will be defensible space, the chipping program, and address signs. Gary Green will compile a list of companies that can perform vegetation management work.

Gary Green reported that KQED TV did a piece on the SRA inspections on Dry Creek Road. Gary proposed that we put a link to that piece on the MVFSC website.

It was moved and approved that MVFSC would pay all the expenses for the 5/3 event because of the shaky financial condition of the DCLVFD.

- b. **Annual Archer-Taylor Preserve neighborhood picnic, June 21:** It would be good if the MVFSC were represented at this event.
- c. **Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council Community Forum and BBQ:** April 27, 3 to 6 pm
- d. **Fire, Invasive species and Habitat Health forum:** May 14, 8 am to 4 pm, Diamond Bar, CA.
- e. **Home Winemakers Classic:** July 19, 4 to 6:30 pm. Because the attendees are not local, there is no real benefit to our being there. But our canopy will be there and the musicians will use it.
- f. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation Annual Meeting:** Also on July 19. Bill Robertson, Kelly Wallace and Carole Meredith will attend.

### 3. Project Updates:

- a. **Green address signs:** Gary Green reported that 7 new sign orders have been received.
- b. **Old Ridge Road:** The 2014 work was originally scheduled to run from April 7 through May 16, but it has been delayed because we are waiting for environmental clearance from BLM and final approval from the California Fire Safe Council.
- c. **California Fire Safe Council Grant Pre-award Seminar:** It was reported at the meeting that OMB is revamping the rules for grant management, but they won't take effect until 2015.

### 4. CWPP

Bill Robertson and Evangeline James met with Cal Fire personnel Steve Hawks, Mike Wilson and Barry Biermann on April 1. They support our work but Cal Fire is putting a high priority on roadside clearing. They want to focus on Dry Creek Road and Mount Veeder Road. So our revised CWPP should probably put more emphasis on roadside clearing. We probably won't be able to get prisoner crews for shaded fuel break projects. We will have to hire private contractors, at much greater expense.

Evangeline and Bill will continue to work on revising the CWPP.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Firewood:** Our piles of un-split firewood are taking up a lot of space at the firehouse and we need to do something about it. We will hold a work party to split wood on 5/18 from 9 am to 12 noon. We will need to ask for volunteers with wood splitters who can bring them and operate them. We can also sell wood that day, beginning at 11 am. The price for un-split wood will be \$75 for a pickup truck load.
- 2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** no update

3. **Website:** It was noted that the DCLVFD website has the wrong date for the Pancake Breakfast. It was also noted that the CAFSC website does not have a link to the MVFSC. Carole Meredith said she would rectify that.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Defensible space inspections:** Cal Fire is conducting defensible space inspections along Dry Creek Road. It is not known whether residents can request an inspection.
2. **Purchase request policy:** Ken Van Oeveren has prepared a draft purchase request policy. He asked that the MVFSC review it and provide him with feedback.
3. **County chipper program status:** We don't know whether it has started yet for this year.

**OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Gary Green said he would update our brochure for the 5/3 event.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:00 am

**Next Meeting:** Saturday May 24 at 9:00  
Kelly Wallace's house  
5269 Dry Creek Road

**TO DO LIST:****Gary Green:**

1. Reimburse Carole Meredith \$119.88 for renewing the shopping cart on the MVFSC website
2. Compile list of private contractors who can do vegetation management (DONE)
3. Update our brochure for the 5/3 event (DONE)

**Kelly Wallace:**

1. Prepare the report for the Napa Valley Community Foundation
2. Get us certified as a Firewise Community
3. Send Hold Harmless document to MVFSC members for their signatures

**Bill Robertson:**

1. Continue to work on revision of CWPP

**Evangeline James:**

1. Continue to work on revision of CWPP

**Carole Meredith:**

1. Get signed permission form from Richard Brandlin for his parcel at the south end of the ORR
2. Send out notices requesting wood splitters for 5/18 work party (DONE)
3. Get MVFSC link added to CAFSC website