



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

**DATE:** Saturday, June 28, 2014

**LOCATION:** Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Kelly Wallace, Bill Robertson, Ken Van Oeveren, Gary Green, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, Carole Meredith, Evangeline James

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** none

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** May 24 minutes were approved

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Kelly Wallace thanked Gary Green for his time and effort on the Old Ridge Road project.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary Green reported that our current bank balance is \$26,913.79. One address sign was sold during the last month. Approximately \$123 was spent on anti-theft bolts and aluminum tracks for the road signs.

We will not be able to use the MVFSC credit card for grant expenses, so purchases that require a credit card for purchase (e.g., fuel) will be used as matching funds.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- a. 14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** We got environmental approval on June 10, but we did not get California Fire Safe Council (CAFSC) approval because Liron Galliano was waiting until she could group all the sub-awards and send them to Washington, DC as one request for funds. So our award has been held up for that reason. Kelly Wallace suggested to Liron that they forward the funding request for those sub-awards that have been approved. She will send us the paperwork next week for us to request the money. It may still take several weeks. We can't get our money until CAFSC gets their money from Washington. We will request \$14,000.

Since we are now working with NCFE money and they have a June 30 fiscal year-end, we need to send our expenses to Stephen Gort. We are currently working under Alternative B (as described in the May 24 minutes), using \$12,000 of NCFE money and the Delta Camp crew. We can use the county money until

it's gone, or we can switch to Federal money and "bank" the NCFE county money and get it later. If we spend the NCFE money now, it becomes an in kind match for the Federal grant.

If we cannot get the Delta Camp crew as much as we need, we can use the Federal money to hire a private contractor. To summarize, the county NCFE money goes to in kind and the Federal money will be coming in a few weeks. Bill Robertson will liaise with Stephen Gort to make sure his fiscal needs are met.

We cannot sell any firewood that we take from the Old Ridge Road project while working under the Federal grant without approval. Kelly Wallace reported that he has learned that the property owner must sign a document to get an exemption from this rule.

## 2. Events:

- a. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation Annual Meeting, July 19:** Kelly Wallace, Bill Robertson, and Carole Meredith will attend. Our presentation is at 1 pm.

We will describe our project and ask for more money. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year on this project. We are very well-organized. We can finish it next year if we hire a private contractor, but we may not have enough money for that. And we may not be able to get the Delta Camp crew as much as we want them.

Carole Meredith will make the presentation. She will send Kelly Wallace the PowerPoint file from the 2013 presentation so that he can add placeholders for financial information. We should add that we are amending our CWPP and emphasize that we are looking forward beyond the Old Ridge Road project. We should also include mention of our use of NextDoor Mount Veeder.

## 3. Project Updates:

- a. **Old Ridge Road:** Gary Green reported that work on the Old Ridge Road has begun and that only the west side is being done right now, at the recommendation of John Layton, in order to cover as much linear distance as possible within the time available. If time permits, the east side will also be done. About 1.5 acres has been cleared so far.

Because we may get to the south end of the project this year, we must complete the south end property owner permissions as soon as possible. Richard Brandlin owns a parcel for which we need permission. Evangeline James thinks he is living at the Golden Living Center on Trancas. Carole Meredith said she would try to locate him there and get his permission.

## 4. CWPP

Evangeline James listed the projects from our original CWPP and asked which ones we should retain in the revised document. It was the consensus of the group that the projects should be prioritized as follows:

1. Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break – new work and maintenance
2. Lokoya Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break

3. Oakville Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break
4. Bald Mountain Shaded Fuel Break – new project, the old fire road above Wall Road
5. Mount Veeder Summit – new project

It was agreed that the CWPP should include maintenance of the work previously done at The Cove. It was further agreed that the following should be the responsibility of the property owner:

- Clearing along driveways
- Structural clearance, 100 feet
- Structural clearance, 10 feet
- Bridge capacity evaluation

We have 2 categories of activities: 1) fuel reduction projects and 2) education. Structural clearance is not an MVFSC project, but we educate property owners and residents about the need to do it. The existing CWPP has language about this, but it should be moved from Projects to Education.

Maintenance must be included for The Cove and the Old Ridge Road projects. We should use the term Fuel Reduction instead of Vegetation Management. Bridge capacity evaluation should be an owner responsibility and bridges should be able to accommodate vehicles weighing 80,000 pounds.

Napa County and Cal Fire are working on roadside clearing on the major roads, but they may never get to the minor roads. We will state that the roadside clearing projects that we undertake will be based on what the County and Cal Fire have done.

We will describe our ongoing education activities through community meetings, our website, NextDoor Mount Veeder and our community email list.

The group agreed on the following outline for our activities:

1. Fuel reduction projects
  - a. Shaded fuel breaks
    - i. Old Ridge Road
    - ii. Lokoya Perimeter
    - iii. Oakville Ridge Road
    - iv. Bald Mountain
    - v. Mount Veeder Summit
  - b. Roadside clearing
    - i. Mount Veeder Road
    - ii. Dry Creek Road (starting at Orchard Avenue)
    - iii. Redwood Road (starting at Browns Valley Road)
    - iv. Partrick Road (starting at Borrette Lane)
    - v. Wall Road
    - vi. Lokoya Road
2. Maintenance
  - a. The Cove

- b. Old Ridge Road
- c. Roadside Clearing
- 3. Education
  - a. Road signs
  - b. Address signs
  - c. 100-foot clearance rules
  - d. 10-foot clearance rules
  - e. Communication modes
    - i. NextDoor Mount Veeder
    - ii. Community email list

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Hold harmless document:** Active MVFSC members have now signed this
2. **Napa Community Projects request:** Kelly Wallace is working on the request.
3. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** Kelly Wallace is working on this
4. **PG&E Grant:** Kelly Wallace will ask Eumie Davis at PG&E about the status of our requests
5. **Purchase request policy:** Ken Van Oeveren said that the DCLVFD Board is still revising its financial procedures and that the parts relevant to us would come to us for review. We will be able to extract financial reports for any grant.
6. **Firewood:** Kelly Wallace called about 10 firewood vendors to see if they would buy or take our existing firewood. We probably will not be able to sell it, but we will try to find someone who will at least pay for the trucking to remove it.
7. **Project publicity:** According to the rules, project publicity requires review by the CA FSC. Carole Meredith will send a notice of our grant funding to NextDoor Mount Veeder and to our community email list and will send a copy to Kelly Wallace to send to CA FSC for review. Carole will also write a notice for the Napa Register and wait for CA FSC review before submitting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Bill Robertson presented the In kind reporting form for our time spend on the CA FSC grant. Our hourly rate is \$26.34. Bill proposed that we clarify in writing who in the MVFSC is responsible for adhering to each requirement of the CA FSC grant.
2. Evangeline James proposed that we ask PG&E to do power line clearing on Wall Road like they did on Lokoya Road. It was pointed out, however, that the power lines on Wall Road may not follow the road closely. Evangeline was asked to follow up.

**OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:45 am

**Next Meeting:** Saturday July 26 at 9:00 am  
 Dry Creek – Lokoya Fire Station  
 5900 Dry Creek Road

**TO DO LIST:****Kelly Wallace:**

1. Send the agenda for the NCCFF annual meeting to Carole Meredith
2. Prepare Napa Community Projects funding request
3. Prepare the report for the Napa Valley Community Foundation

**Evangeline James:**

1. Continue to work on the CWPP revision
2. Follow up on whether PG&E power lines on Wall Road lie along the actual road and ask PG&E contact whether they can undertake power line clearing.

**Carole Meredith:**

1. Get signed permission form from Richard Brandlin for his parcel at the south end of the ORR
2. Get MVFSC link added to CAFSC website
3. Send the 2013 NCCFF presentation file to Kelly Wallace (DONE)
4. Put notice on NextDoor re availability of firewood piles along Mt. Veeder Road
5. Send notice to NextDoor and community email list about the CA FSC grant. Send copy to Kelly Wallace for CA FSC review
6. Prepare notice about CA FSC grant for Napa Register and send to Kelly Wallace for CA FSC review before submitting to newspaper.

**ALL**

1. Complete in-kind reporting form for project-related time spent from April 1, 2014 on.