



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, July 26, 2014

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

ATTENDANCE: Bill Robertson, Greg Holquist, Gary Green, Gary Margadant, Evangeline James, Carole Meredith

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: June 26 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Bill Robertson (in Kelly Wallace's absence) conveyed Kelly's thanks to those who participated in the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that our current bank balance is \$26,945.55. He said that he had paid our sales tax (\$144.80) to the Board of Equalization. Because it was paid out of the DCLVFD account, MVFSC will reimburse the fire department.

Credit card expenses are being kept separate from other expenses because we are unable to enter each expense as a separate line item in QuickBooks. When we pay the credit card bill, we can then split the amount by each individual purchase.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Grants:

- a. 14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** We still have not received the money because the California Fire Safe Council (CAFSC) has not forwarded the funds request to Washington. They are waiting until all the grants have obtained the necessary approvals so that they can submit a single funding request, thus delaying the work on the grants like ours that have approval. Greg Holquist said that he would contact Neil Fisher at PG&E, who is the president of the CAFSC, to ask him if he could do something about this.
- b. Napa County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD):** no update
- c. Napa Community Projects:** no update

- d. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** This support has enabled us to accomplish what we have, in view of the delay in the CAFSC funding. Invoices submitted after June 30 will be paid out of our next year's NCFE funding.

2. Events:

- a. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation Annual Meeting, July 19:** Kelly Wallace, Bill Robertson, and Carole Meredith attended. Our presentation was made by Carole. Carole reported that the report by the Berryessa Estates FSC on their experience with the recent Butts Fire was very moving.

Stephen Gort explained that the new Cal Fire Vegetation Management Program will emphasize roadside clearing and is intended to demonstrate the benefits of the SRA fee program to residents who have been required to pay it. It will require the coordinated efforts of NCFE, Cal Fire, Napa County Fire Department and the Fire Safe Councils. Chippers will be operated by inmates from the Napa County Department of Corrections. Concern was expressed that the Fire Safe Councils may face difficulty in getting access to Cal Fire crews for their projects. We may have to subordinate our priorities.

Evangeline James said that she would talk to District Attorney Gary Lieberstein about getting county inmates trained to do this kind of work.

3. Project Updates:

- a. **Green signs:** Gary Green reported that 2 more signs have been sold.
- b. **Old Ridge Road:** Gary Green reported that work on the north end of the Old Ridge Road has been suspended until we receive our federal funds. Approximately 0.3 mile of the east side of the roadway remains to be done. He reminded the group that we need to think about the maintenance needs of this project.

When we resume work on the south end of the Old Ridge Road, access may be problematic because the only paved access is from Lagier Meredith Vineyard in the middle of the ORR. It will be more efficient for the southernmost part of the project if the crew truck could approach the south end from Cuvaision's Brandlin Ranch property. We will need to discuss this with Cuvaision.

4. CWPP

Evangeline James asked for feedback on the project descriptions she sent out for the 5 project that we have identified as high priorities as well as for maintenance of completed projects. Gary Green proposed including in our CWPP documents from the Napa County website regarding clearance and hydrants.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Firewood status and sales:** Kelly is working on trying to get the law changed to allow sales of firewood from Delta Crew projects. Greg Holquist said that the wood is owned by the property owner, so the owner can donate the wood to the MVFSC to sell.

Much of our wood is already cut to length, or close to it, but we need more work parties to split wood. Greg Holquist said his sister is willing to write another article for the newspaper.

Gary Margadant suggested having 2 wood splitting parties, one on a weekend and one mid-week for retirees. Or several evenings for 1 to 2 hours each. The date of September 6 was proposed and also perhaps a mid-week date after that.

Our big limitation seems to be the availability of splitters. We should make a list of neighborhood residents who have splitters.

2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** no update
3. **Website status and adding MVFSC link to the CAFSC website:** no update

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Public Resource Code 4291 inspections: Cal Fire is doing some inspections with aides hired with the SRA fees but Greg Holquist suggested that inspections should be ramped up. They are a great opportunity for public education.

Greg said he is willing to undertake inspections or to organize the effort. But we must be careful because we are not an official agency. If we conduct an inspection, it will not be the fire department saying that your house is safe.

2. Eumi Davis has been replaced at PG&E by Tony Walls for vegetation management. This may slow our funding requests from PG&E.
3. Wall Road roadside and power line clearing: PG&E might do it but it is Tony Walls call. And it requires the property owner's permission. Evangeline will talk to Wall Road property owners and Greg Holquist will talk to Tony Walls.
4. Gary Margadant suggested that we might want to look at Steve Levine's progress on clearing and limbing on his property.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:15 am

Next Meeting: Saturday August 23 at 9:00 am
Gary Green's house
5410 Dry Creek Road

TO DO LIST:**Kelly Wallace:**

1. Prepare Napa Community Projects funding request
2. Prepare the report for the Napa Valley Community Foundation

Greg Holquist:

1. Contact Neil Fisher at PG&E regarding the slow process being used by CA FSC to get funds released from Washington DC that penalizes the FSC's that have met all the requirements.
2. Talk to Tony Walls at PG&E about roadside clearing along the power line on Wall Road.

Evangeline James:

1. Continue to work on the CWPP revision
2. Check with Gary Lieberstein on the extent to which county inmates are being trained to work on roadside clearing projects.
3. Talk to property owners along Wall Road about whether they would be willing to allow PG&E to clear vegetation along power line where it runs across private property.

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. Put notice on NextDoor re availability of firewood piles along Mt. Veeder Road
4. Send notice to NextDoor and community email list about the CA FSC grant. Send copy to Kelly Wallace for CA FSC review
5. 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.