



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, August 23, 2014

LOCATION: Gary Green's house, 5410 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Kelly Wallace, Bill Robertson, Greg Holquist, Gary Green, Evangeline James, Ken Van Oeveren, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, Carole Meredith, Mike Wink (Cal Fire)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: July 26 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Kelly Wallace thanked Bill Robertson for chairing the July 26 meeting in Kelly's absence.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that our current bank balance is \$26,440.08. He noted that income from firewood sales is higher than budgeted, but that expenses for the road signs are higher (to replace a stolen sign and to buy additional signs for the May 3 meeting) as are office supply expenses (primarily for printer cartridges).

Gary proposed that we establish a separate Quickbooks account for our in kind money that doesn't actually pass through our bank account. Three changes were discussed and approved:

1. Eliminate budget line 700.21 (the Napa Community Firewise Foundation grant) since this money does not ever go into our bank account. (Joanne Sutro emphasized the importance of not hiding this "ghost" money, however, even though it is handled by NCFE and does not go into our bank account.)
2. Move \$2,000 from our reserve fund to the Old Ridge Road project (budget line 703.1) to cover the cost overrun beyond the NCFE grant.
3. Remove the \$49,258 California Fire Safe Council funding from 703.1. This will be tracked separately.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Grants:**

- a. **14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** Kelly Wallace reported that he talked to Liron Galliano about getting our money from Washington more quickly. She said they have worked out a way to get money to the FSC groups that have satisfied the requirements without making them wait until all groups have done so. But the first quarter of our grant ended July 31 and we got nothing. We will request \$20,000 for the 2nd quarter.

Greg Holquist said that he had talked to Neal Fisher (of PG&E and also president of the California Fire Safe Council board) but that nothing has been done yet. Greg said he will follow up with Neal Fisher on improving the CAFSC procedures.

Bill Robertson reminded us that we need to capture our in-kind services (i.e., our time on ORR project-related activities). Kelly said he will send out a form for this purpose, to be returned to Bill by Wednesday August 27. This should include time spent at MVFSC meetings discussing the Old Ridge Road project for the period April 1, 2014 through August 1, 2014. It should also include the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation meeting on July 19 and the May 3 community meeting. Bill will compile our total in-kind hours and dollars based on our submitted time.

- b. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** We exceeded the \$12,000 grant from NCFE so we will pay the overage from our own funds. We'll get the exact amount from Stephen Gort and then put some money into our budget to cover that.
- c. **PG&E grants:** Tony Walls at PG&E wrote to Kelly Wallace and confirmed that they will fund both of the proposals that we submitted -- \$68,000 for the Old Ridge Road and \$80,000 for the Lokoya Perimeter.

For each project, we must submit

- A project work plan
- A project summary description
- Project area map

We have all this information for the Old Ridge Road project but we need to work on the Lokoya plan. The Lokoya project will entail a shaded fuel break along an old logging road and stagecoach road. We will need permission from the Lokoya property owners. The first phase of funding is 50% of the funds. The work on both projects must be completed by October 31. Before we receive the final funds, we must submit monthly project status reports and monthly expense reports.

The project managers will be Greg Holquist for the Lokoya project and Gary Green for the Old Ridge Road project. Because the Cal Fire corrections crews are not available to us right now, we will hire private contractors. Greg Holquist said that a private crew for a 10 hour day will cost about \$1,500/day.

Kelly Wallace will prepare the work plan for the ORR project. He needs to know who will be doing the work and how much they will charge. The Lokoya work plan will be prepared by Greg Holquist with help from Bill Robertson, Evangeline

James and Ken Van Oeveren. The group approved all the work required to proceed on both projects.

It was suggested that any residents we are aware of who are likely to be particularly concerned should be contacted in advance. It was also proposed that we should take advantage of the public relations potential of these projects and perhaps hire a photographer.

2. Events: none

Evangeline James proposed that we create a calendar so that we can anticipate and plan for recurring events.

3. Project Updates:

- a. **Old Ridge Road:** Carole Meredith agreed to notify property owners Galvin and Kossen that work will resume earlier than previously expected. Carole has also contacted Cuvaision Winery, the owner of the Brandlin Ranch at the south end of the project, and they are amenable to having work crews access the ORR via their driveway off Mount Veeder Road when it becomes more efficient to approach from that direction.

4. CWPP: no update

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Napa Community Projects:** We will ask for \$10,000 to assist residents in improving the defensible space around their homes, including organizing inspections.
2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** no update
3. **National Firewise Community status:** no update

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Napa County Corrections crews:** Evangeline James has been looking into the possibility of county inmates working on roadside clearing. Some counties are already doing this. She reported that she will be meeting with District Attorney Gary Lieberstein and police and corrections representatives to discuss this. She asked whether PG&E might be able to provide funds for a training program and for the purchase of equipment and vehicles. Greg Holquist said that he will ask about it.
2. **Firewood sales:** Kelly Wallace reported that there is an exemption we could get that would allow us to sell the wood from our projects. But is that even needed since the wood belongs to the property owner. Apparently this becomes an issue if a Cal Fire crew has processed the firewood.

It was suggested that we purchase a splitter since splitting is the biggest limitation in the production of firewood for sale. It was proposed that we include this in the budget for the Lokoya Perimeter project. And perhaps we should also buy a dump trailer. The old shed at the firehouse could be refurbished and the equipment could be securely stored there.

The need for a firewood work party was brought up again and it was suggested that perhaps one could be scheduled for October.

Greg Holquist said that any private contractors working on the Old Ridge Road and Lokoya projects will take the wood to the firehouse for us.

3. **SRA publicity and support:** Some problems have been experienced with some residents on Mount Veeder Road who are affected by the SRA roadside clearing project. Mike Wilson (Cal Fire) would like the MVFSC to publicly express our support for the roadside clearing work. Cal Fire would pay the postage for the mailing of a joint statement from MVFSC and Cal Fire.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Carole Meredith said she would modify the MVFSC Core Google group to include only the true core members who regularly attend meeting. She will create another group to receive the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT: 12 noon

Next Meeting: Saturday September 27 at 9:00 am
Joanne Sutro's and Wayne Cain's house
4143 Dry Creek Road