



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

**DATE:** Saturday, September 27, 2014

**LOCATION:** Joanne Sutro and Wayne Cain's house, 4143 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Kelly Wallace, Bill Robertson, Gary Green, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, Carole Meredith, Joe Nordlinger

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** none

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** August 23 minutes were approved

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Kelly Wallace welcomed Joe Nordlinger and thanked Carole Meredith for arranging admission to the Mount Veeder Appellation Fall Tasting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary Green reported that our current bank balance is \$65,925.72, which includes \$40,000 from PG&E. He noted recent expenses for wine tasting and caps for the Korean group that visited on 9/25.

Gary proposed that we treat the Federal money as we do the NCFF money for the purposes of bookkeeping, since both sources are "ghost money" that does not go into our bank account.

Kelly Wallace expressed concern about unilateral decisions on spending MVFSC money and said that expenditures must be discussed by at least 2 MVFSC members before they can be pursued.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- a. **14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** Kelly Wallace reported that we have now put in our request for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (none) and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter funds. Lirion Galliano says we are now to do all our reporting via the internet by means of a system that they are developing now. Despite the fact that the new system is not yet in place, Kelly has submitted our request for funds anyway because we cannot wait.

Kelly asked that all bills and hours be sent to him monthly so that he can compile it for CA FSC (in addition to the reporting that we already do to NCFF).

- b. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** We need to report hours to NCFF. Kelly Wallace is putting together a proposal for assisting residents to improve their own defensible space.
- c. **PG&E grants:** We have received \$40,000 for the Lokoya project (half the amount of the total grant). We expect to receive \$34,000 for the Old Ridge Road project soon. We must use our own money for the second half of the Lokoya project before we get paid. Family Tree has agreed to this.

## 2. Events:

- a. **Site visit by South Korean group on September 25:** The group consisted of 17 people, including foresters and firefighters. Gary Green reported that he prepared a Powerpoint presentation that combines the 3 phases of the Old Ridge Road project (2012, 2013, 2014). The presentation was made at the firehouse and then the group traveled by bus to the Lokoya Perimeter project site. Afterwards, the entire group went to the Vinoce Winery in Napa for a wine tasting. Greg Holquist's sister will write a story for the Napa Register. Cal Fire personnel and the Napa County supervisors have also been notified.

## 3. Project Updates:

- a. **Old Ridge Road:** Gary Green reported that the private contractor will work weekends through 9/28 and then full-time starting 9/30. Gary said they will probably get as far as Dan Galvin's house but will not get to the south end of the ORR project with the PG&E money.
- b. **Lokoya Perimeter:** Work is in progress. The grant money is enough for 2 weeks and 2 day more of work, at approximately \$6,000/day for the crew and \$13,000 for the mower. They will finish at Lokoya on 9/29 and then move to the Old Ridge Road project.

Bill Robertson brought up an issue that has arisen on the project. Sue Fair, owner of Lokoya Lodge, observed that the work had crossed over onto the neighboring Ruffin property. The property line (marked by an old redwood and barbed wire fence) did not become apparent until the clearing was well underway. So we will need to obtain permission from Shelly Ruffin for the work performed on her property.

A discussion ensued about how to better communicate with residents about projects near their homes. Bill Robertson proposed a sandwich board type of sign to be placed near a project when it begins to notify residents. It's too late for the Lokoya Project, but it would be useful for roadside clearing projects.

- 4. **CWPP:** no update as Evangeline James was not present

## OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Napa Community Projects:** Joanne Sutro will draft a funding request for Kelly Wallace to submit.

2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** no update
3. **National Firewise Community status:** no update
4. **SRA publicity:** Mike Wilson has pulled the Cal Fire crews off the roadside clearing work that is funded by the SRA fees until the residents are more on board with the project. Gary Green is working on this.
5. **Napa County Corrections crews:** The meeting on this subject did not take place because of the 8/24 earthquake. The question was raised as to whether the County has the inmates long enough to adequately train them.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Website updates:** Gary Green noted that the MVFSC website is not up to date on the meeting minutes. April 2014 is the most recent. He will send the minutes files that he has to Sue Santos to add to the website. Carole Meredith agreed to send the most recent files to Gary.
2. **Upcoming seminars and workshope:** Bill Robertson announced a 10/28 seminar on the role of the insurance industry in fire safety sponsored by the California Fire Chiefs Association to take place in Roseville. And the California Nevada Hawaii Fire Council Fall Workshop will take place on October 20 and 21 in South Lake Tahoe
3. It was pointed out that our mailing list of residents in our neighborhood is incomplete. The question was raised as to whether the Napa County Assessor's office would be willing to provide us with a list of the property owners in electronic format. Kelly Wallace agreed to ask Assessor John Tuteur.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** 12 noon

**Next Meeting:** Saturday October 25 at 9:00 am  
Joe Nordlinger's house  
4297 Dry Creek Road

**TO DO LIST:****All:**

1. Track and report to Kelly monthly all hours spent on projects so that we can compile the time for in kind matching for California Fire Safe Council grant. Include time spent discussing projects during meetings.

**Kelly Wallace:**

1. Prepare Napa Community Projects funding request
2. Prepare the report for the Napa Valley Community Foundation
3. Ask John Tuteur whether his office would provide us with, in electronic format, a list of property owners in our neighborhood..

**Joanne Sutro:**

1. Draft Napa Community Projects funding request for Kelly to use

**Bill Robertson:**

1. Obtain permission from Shelly Ruffin for Lokoya Perimeter clearing that inadvertently took place on her property

**Greg Holquist:**

1. Follow up with Neil Fisher at PG&E regarding improving CA FSC procedure for getting grant funds from Washington DC.
2. Inquire as to whether PG&E could provide funding for training Napa County inmates for roadside clearing work and fund the purchase of equipment and vehicles.

**Gary Green:**

1. Submit all credit card expenses related to CA FSC Old Ridge Road project for in kind matching

**Evangeline James:**

1. Continue to work on the CWPP revision

**Carole Meredith:**

1. Send PDFs of recent meeting minutes to Sue Santos to add to MVFSC website
2. Get signed permission form from Richard Brandlin for his parcel at the south end of the ORR
3. Get MVFSC link added to CAFSC website
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.