



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

**DATE:** Saturday, October 25, 2014

**LOCATION:** Joe Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Robertson, Gary Green, Greg Holquist, Ken Van Oeveren, Evangeline James, Joe Nordlinger, Carole Meredith

### **ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:**

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** Two corrections were made to the 9/27/14 minutes. The statement in the Treasurer's Report about federal money being treated like NCCFF money for bookkeeping purposes was corrected. Under Events, the spelling of Sue Fair's name was corrected.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** In Kelly Wallace's absence, Vice Chair Bill Robertson conveyed Kelly's thanks to Gary Green and Greg Holquist for their extraordinary efforts in managing the expenditure of \$170,000 worth of work in just over a month on our two PG&E-funded projects. He also noted that the visit of the South Korean group had been reported in the Napa Register but that the article was poorly edited. The group agreed that the MVFSC should send a thank you note to Peggy Aaron for her help with the South Korean group visit.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary Green reported that our current checking account balance is \$27,175.04. We have not yet received the final payment from PG&E. The two PG&E grants now have their own line items in our budget.

Income: We have had one new address sign request. Expenses: The only significant expenses have been for the two PG&E projects, primarily to Family Tree for the vegetation removal work and for Google Earth Pro that was purchased for mapping our projects.

It was noted that we might in the future use Greg Holquist's professional services as a forester. If that should come up, the group agreed that it would be appropriate for Greg to recuse himself from decisions regarding bids on such work.

Ken Van Oeveren asked about the gifts we gave to the South Korean group (wine tasting and hats) and asked whether we received gifts from them. We did receive

several decorated wooden boxes but since we have decided to use them as silent auction items, no member of MVFSC will personally benefit.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### 1. Grants:

- a. **14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** There is still no word on the timing of our grant money, despite multiple calls to Liron Galliano at CFSC. We have now spent \$450 of our own in kind money.

Projections for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: We wrote in our grant proposal that we would clear 125 feet on each side. But Delta Camp did only 50 feet on each side (and that work was finished with PG&E money). If we extend it to 125 feet, we'll never get to the southern end. If we used the mower that was used on the Lokoya Perimeter project, maybe we could do it. But it's not clear whether we can use that kind of equipment on our federally funded project. Evangeline James said that CEQA does not apply if we are not applying for a permit. Others in the group were unable to recall why we had previously thought we could use only hand labor on this project. We will ask Kelly Wallace if he remembers the details.

- b. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** We have been awarded \$10,000 for roadside clearing. This is work that was started by Cal Fire with SRA funds. We will start after January 15, 2015. It is essential that we build good community awareness for this work. This was a big problem when Cal Fire was doing this work. Perhaps we need roadside signs.

The \$10,000 won't go very far by the time we pay for traffic control and equipment. So maybe we should pick a very limited area to work in. Or maybe we should target specific plant species (e.g., eucalyptus)

We need to communicate and work with Cal Fire, since they started this work. Do we need to continue where they left off? Bill Robertson and Evangeline James agreed to talk to Mike Wilson at Cal Fire about this.

- c. **PG&E grants:** Greg Holquist reported that the hours reported by Family Tree on the two projects were different than actually recorded by Greg, amounting to a difference of 16 hours. But this was resolved and we did not pay them for those hours.

We have spent \$162,872 out of the \$178,000 available so we have \$15,127 available for additional purchases. Greg Holquist and Gary Green, the project managers, propose to spend approximately \$12,200 of this money on equipment that we can use on future projects: \$5,500 for a dump trailer to carry wood from project sites and to deliver firewood to buyers, \$3,500 for a splitter, \$1,200 for signs, and \$2,000 for chainsaws. It was moved and approved to authorize Greg Holquist and Gary Green (and Bill Robertson for signs) to spend up to \$15,127 on the above equipment. They will get 3 bids each before making a purchase decision. (This has already been done for the trailer and splitter, but not yet for the chainsaws. In response to a question from Ken Van Oeveren, it was agreed that the chainsaws can be used only for MVFSC business.

It was emphasized that we need secure storage for this equipment. It was also pointed out that we need to track these capital purchases for the purpose of insurance and depreciation. We also need to regularly check that the equipment items are physically present and are maintained. This could be a standard recurring agenda item.

- d. **New Cal Fire Grant Programs:** Cal Fire has recently announced two new grant programs: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Grant Programs and State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Grant Programs (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants.php>). Both programs encompass the kind of vegetation management projects that the MVFSC undertakes. Bill Robertson showed a presentation from a workshop about the program.

Concept Proposals are due by November 14, 2014 for the SRA program and November 21 for the GGRF program, with full applications due early in 2015 and work to begin in mid-2015. The GGRF program requires the involvement of a Registered Professional Forester. So we may want to ask Don Gasser to assist us. The SRA program does not require the involvement of a registered professional forester.

The group discussed possible projects to propose for these grants, including Wall Road, Oakville Ridge Road and more roadside clearing. Evangeline James agreed to extract possible projects from our CWPP. She and Greg Holquist agreed to work on the Concept Proposals

2. **Events:** The possibility of a Christmas party was discussed and Enchanted Hills was suggested as a location.
3. **Project Updates:**
  - a. **Lokoya Perimeter:** Greg Holquist showed some photos of the work. Redwoods and Oaks were left where possible and maples, bays and firs were preferentially removed. Remaining trees were limbed to 15 feet. The clearing extended 100 feet on each side.
  - b. **Old Ridge Road:** Gary Green reported that the clearing is now completed on both sides of the ORR from Dan Galvin's house north to Troy Tyner's house. The clearing extends to 50 feet on each side.
4. **CWPP:** Evangeline James reported that she has been working on all the projects included in the CWPP. She is currently working on the roads and she may add the private access roads that run from the county roads to the ridgelines.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Napa Community Projects:** A thank you letter has been sent
2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** still pending
3. **National Firewise Community status:** Kelly Wallace has spoken to Darren Drake about completing this process
4. **Napa County Corrections crews:** still pending
5. **Obtaining property owner list from county:** still pending

6. **Permission from Shelly Ruffin for work on her property:** Bill Robertson has emailed her
7. **Website updates:** Carole Meredith will send the most recent minutes files to Sue Santos for the MVFSC website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Firewood sales:** Greg Holquist will propose a schedule for preparing and selling firewood. He will also try to get an article in the newspaper. We currently have 2 cords of split wood and about 3 cords of unsplit wood. A lot of wood still remains along the ORR project site.
2. **Sue Fair and Rob Lee** have offered to host a fundraiser at Lokoya Lodge.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** 12 noon

**Next Meeting:** Saturday November 29 at 9:00 am  
Gary Green's house  
5410 Dry Creek Road