



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, November 29, 2014

LOCATION: DCLVFD Firehouse, 5900 Dry Creek Road

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

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The 10/25/14 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Kelly noted that his term as chair is nearing its end. He said that he could continue his role in MVFSC administration but that he does not have the time to contribute to grant writing or project management. The group agreed that the MVFSC Chair should delegate more of the work to others.

The group discussed possible successors to become MVFSC chair. The current Vice Chair, Bill Robertson, said that he could not take it on. When asked, Greg Holquist said he might be willing but was concerned about a possible conflict of interest if he were operating his own forestry business and wanted to bid on an MVFSC project. The group agreed that as long as multiple bids were solicited for a project and that Greg recused himself from the decision on choosing a private contractor for a project, there would be no conflict. Joanne Sutro noted that Steve Silva is the president of the Napa Valley Hospice board and that his company occasionally does work for the organization.

Gary Green nominated Greg Holquist to be the chair for 2015 and 2016 and Evangeline James to be Vice Chair. The group unanimously supported these nominations. Carole Meredith agreed to continue as MVFSC secretary.

Kelly Wallace thanked Evangeline James for preparing the two recently submitted concept proposals to the Cal Fire grant program.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that our current checking account balance is \$33,425.45 but we have an upcoming credit card payment of \$3,325.98 (for the splitter, wood covers, and backpack sprayers) so that will reduce our bank balance to \$30,099.47.

Gary reported that we received much more income (approximately \$180,000) than originally budgeted because we received the funds for the two PG&E grants. We also had some income from the sale of address signs and firewood sales. We had expenses for road signs and for the work and equipment related to the PG&E projects.

As the result of a math error on our part, we actually received \$2,000 more from PG&E than was in the original budget. Greg Holquist agreed to notify PG&E of our error and to offer to return the excess money.

For 2015 we may need to increase the budgeted amounts for office supplies, sales taxes and road signs. The group approved increasing the amount for office supplies to \$300. We will not need to add to our reserve. But it was agreed that we should put our existing \$10,000 reserve into a separate account. The group authorized Gary Green to open a new account for our reserve funds. He was given the authority to decide whether it should be a liquid CD or a savings account, with the understanding that it must be insured and interest bearing.

Kelly Wallace said that we are not yet ready to establish the 2015 budget because we need to firm up expected grant income and project costs. He proposed that we put the 2015 budget on the agenda for our January meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Grants:

- a. **California Fire Safe Council Grant (14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break):** Kelly Wallace reported that the CAFSC online reporting module is now running. Kelly asked that all of us send him our individual hours through November related to the Old Ridge Road project so that he can submit them. He also asked Gary Green (the ORR project manager) to provide all the invoices related to this project. We still have not received the funds for this project.
- b. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** We have been awarded \$10,000 from NCCFF and we are mandated to spend it on roadside clearing. We need to assign a project manager and Gary Green agreed to take on this responsibility. We will need to decide whether to hire a private contractor or a Delta Camp crew. (It may become harder to get Delta Camp crews in the wake of Proposition 47, which reduced penalties for many nonviolent property and drug offenses.) We will need to provide traffic control. And it will be essential to coordinate with Cal Fire since they have also been working on roadside clearing. Evangeline James and Bill Robertson agreed to discuss this with Mike Wilson at Cal Fire, who will probably want to play a large role in this project.
- c. **PG&E grants:** The work on the two projects funded by PG&E is now complete.
- d. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program:** Concept proposals for this program were due on 11/14. Evangeline James prepared and submitted a proposal for additional work in the Lokoya Road area. The proposed project is entitled "Lokoya Community Fuel Reduction Project." The amount requested is \$75,000. The scope has been expanded from simply the perimeter to more of a community-wide area.

- e. **Cal Fire Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Grant Program:** Concept proposals for this program were due on 11/21. Evangeline James prepared and submitted two proposals, a Lokoya Community project for \$85,000 and a Wall Road community, also for \$85,000. Evangeline reported that resident Jeff Baer, who had previously objected to any vegetation removal, is now supportive of fuel reduction for the purpose of fire safety in the Lokoya neighborhood that is behind his Mount Veeder Road home.

Evangeline learned from Megan Scheeline at Cal Fire that we need to have a Negative Declaration on environmental impact if we are using Federal money or a Delta Camp crew and that we will need someone (Megan?) to do this for us. And that we need to have a forester involved if we're selling firewood.

- 2. **Events:** The Mount Veeder Holiday Party will be on December 13 at 5 pm at Enchanted Hills.
- 3. **Project Updates:**
 - a. **Lokoya Perimeter:** The PG&E-funded project is complete.
 - b. **Old Ridge Road:** Gary Green reported that 50 feet have been cleared on each side of the ridgeline from the Galvin residence to the Tyner residence. The CAFSC grant specifies 125 feet on each side. We will extend the clearing to 100 feet on each side with a mower when the CA FSC money when it arrives. We will not work on the south end right now. And we are not precluded from using mechanized equipment.
- 4. **CWPP:** Evangeline James reported that she has been working on all the projects included in the CWPP. She will incorporate our new projects and assign them a priority. She reported that the CWPP will be finished by January. Maintenance of completed projects will be a separate category.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Equipment purchases:** Gary Green reported that the trailer and chainsaws have been purchased. The splitter will arrive on Tuesday 12/2. Ken Van Oeveren emphasized the necessity to have theft insurance on these items. He will check with our insurance broker to determine whether our current insurance coverage includes theft.
- 2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** pending
- 3. **National Firewise Community status:** pending
- 4. **Napa County Corrections crews:** pending
- 5. **Obtaining property owner list from county:** pending

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. **Application for "Communities At Risk" on Cal Fire website:** Should we apply? Is there a downside?

2. **Newsletter:** The DCLVFD chief doesn't have time to write the newsletter, so MVFSC will have to do most of it. Items proposed for the newsletter are:
 - a. Visit of Korean group (Greg Holquist)
 - b. Lokoya Perimeter project (Greg Holquist)
 - c. Example of what a resident is doing on his property (Joe Nordlinger)
 - d. Review of recent activities and forecast for the future (Kelly Wallace)
 - e. Old Ridge Road project (Gary Green)
 - f. 4291 evaluations (who???)
 - g. JOIN US in a separate box
 - h. GREEN ADDRESS SIGNS in separate box
3. **Stored water?** Should we inventory water tanks? This could be part of the 4291 inspections.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: none

ADJOURNMENT: 11:20 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 24, 2015
Dry Creek Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department firehouse
5900 Dry Creek Road