



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, February 28, 2015

LOCATION Joseph Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Kelly Wallace, Gary Green, Carole Meredith, Bill Robertson, Ken Van Oeveren, Evangeline James

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Added Greenhouse Gas Reduction grant

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The 1/24/15 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: In the absence of Chair Greg Holquist, Vice Chair Evangeline James chaired the meeting. She noted our recent success in obtaining several grants and commented that it is becoming increasingly difficult for our small group to manage our projects.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that \$3200 has been added to our 2015 budget for the purchase of a shipping container for storage. The Dry Creek Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department Board has approved our 2015 budget. \$10,000 has been moved to a money market account. Our bank balance is \$19,200.84. There was no spending or income activity during the past month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **2015 Budget Review:** (covered under Treasurer's Report above)

2. Grants:

- a. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** Kelly Wallace reported that there has been no update since the last meeting. Greg Holquist was to meet to discuss this with Darren Drake and Megan Scheeline. We will be focusing on Wall Road. Evangeline James said she would check with Greg Holquist on this.
- b. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program:** Our proposal has been submitted and we have not yet heard any further.
- c. **14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break grant:** We still have not received this money, nor have we heard any news. The requirement for matching funds will be met by the funding we received from PG&E. We have not

submitted a proposal for the 2015 California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse Grant program because we have not received the 2014 money.

Kelly Wallace will ask Stephen Gort whether he thinks this money will arrive. Liron Galliono had said it would arrive on February 6 but it did not.

- d. **Cal Fire Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant program:** After submitting a concept proposal for this program, we have now been asked to submit a full proposal. The project will focus on the Wall Road area. The deadline for the proposal is April 30.
3. **CWPP:** Evangeline James said there has been no further progress on this since the last meeting. Evangeline, Bill Robertson and Greg Holquist will meet to further refine the CWPP.

The CWPP is our shopping list of projects that we want to get done. We need to emphasize in our proposals that our area is harder to protect than those of other Napa Fire Safe Councils.

4. **PRC 4291 evaluations:** no update

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Equipment storage:** Gary Green reported that the Dry Creek Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department (DCLVFD) board has agreed to contribute \$3100 to split the cost of a shipping container but this is conditioned on the following:
 - a. The existing containers must be relocated
 - b. The firewood must be moved
 - c. The county must approve the location of the new container

The Napa County Fire Department is going to install an emergency generator at the firehouse. The toilet must also be made ADA compliant, which will necessitate moving it. And there is a flooding issue behind the firehouse that may require grading and permitting.

The DCLVFD agreed that our current equipment can stay inside the firehouse. The board wants to improve parking at the firehouse, but will need to use the area where the firewood is. No engines are being stored at the firehouse right now because of the risk of the large tree in front falling. It will be cut down.

Work details: We must get rid of the firewood. We need a plan to cut, split, store and sell it. We need to organize a work detail to get this underway. March 28 and April 25 were chosen as the dates for work parties. On March 28, the MVFSC meeting will start at 8 am and end at 10 am, at which time the work detail will begin. Gary Green agreed to announce this on NextDoor to solicit participation.

We have only 1 cord of split wood right now. We agreed to put split firewood back on the website with the qualification "as available". We will deliver firewood, but only in the Mount Veeder neighborhood.

2. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** no update

3. **National Firewise Community status:** Kelly Wallace is reconstructing our previously unacceptable application, using the successful Berryessa Highlands application as a model.
4. **Napa County Corrections crews:** No update. Evangeline James commented that the timing for this is not good now because some Napa inmates are being moved to Solano County.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe Nordlinger asked whether Nixle does tests so that one can confirm that one's settings are correct. He suggested that we promote the use of Nixle on NextDoor and educate residents on how to set it up correctly.

Joe also noted the poor cell coverage along parts of Dry Creek Road and wondered whether cellular carriers have any obligation to provide or improve the signal in poor signal areas, e.g. add a new cell tower. Joe agreed to make inquiries.

Joe also suggested including links in the newsletter to the MVFSC website, to drive more traffic to the website. Carole Meredith agreed to notify residents via email and NextDoor about the article Joe wrote about his own experience with improving the fire safety on his property. Carole also agreed to notify residents that the 2015 chipping program is now underway.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: none

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 28, 2015
Firehouse, 5900 Dry Creek Road
Meeting begins at 8 am with work party to follow at 10 am

(And the April 25 meeting will follow the same schedule)