



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, April 25, 2015

LOCATION DCLVFD Firehouse, 5900 Dry Creek Road

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

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The 2/28/15 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Greg Holquist reported that he has been meeting with Cal Fire personnel and Darren Drake.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that our bank balance is \$19,203.28. This does not reflect some recent expenses (website) and income (address signs). We are currently over budget on projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Grants:

- a. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation funding:** Greg Holquist said that we will receive \$10,000 for roadside clearing on Wall Road. Mike Wilson and Megan Scheeline (both of Cal Fire) and Darren Drake (representing NCFE) have walked the Lokoya Road project with Greg Holquist. They agreed that the NCFE funds would be used for Wall Road. They support hiring an outside contractor. We have the county encroachment permit application that must be filled out and submitted. The property owners will be notified personally and electronically. The group approved going forward with this project.
- b. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program:** Our grant application for Lokoya Community Fuel Reduction has been approved for \$75,000. The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council name on our application was problematic because we are an advisory committee to the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department. We had to send DCLVFD documents to the Cal Fire legal department to show that the MVFSC is an advisory committee to DCLVFD, change the applicant name to DCLVFD on all of our grant proposal documents,

and resubmit them. The paperwork is not yet final. The group agreed to move forward on this project.

- c. **Cal Fire Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant program:** After submitting a concept proposal for this program, we were asked to submit a full proposal but have decided not to because this program is not a good fit for us. We would have to involve a Registered Professional Forester and submit carbon calculations. The group supported this decision.
- d. **14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break grant:** We have been approved for half of the funds for this project, which is enough for 10 days of crew time. But the money has not yet been received.
- e. **PG&E CEMA grant (emergency drought funds):** PG&E has offered us \$100,000 for more fuel reduction work. 75% of the work must be completed by August 1 and 100% must be completed by October 1. Project spending can include equipment rental and administration. 50% of the money will be awarded up front.

Qualifying criteria for projects supported by these funds:

1. Within 1,000 feet of a PG&E asset
2. Improves fire department equipment access
3. Reduces risk to residential or commercial properties
4. Reduces risk of access and egress by residents
5. Enhances existing projects

The group discussed possible projects for the use of these funds. Carole Meredith asked whether cameras could be installed on Valley Internet relay towers for fire spotting. Joe Nordlinger proposed that key driveways leading from county roads to ridgelines could be cleared. Greg Holquist argued in favor of this idea because these driveways are typically offer their residents only one way in or out, they often have PG&E lines along them and they have ignition sources (automobiles). Evangeline James asked how much is needed to finish the Old Ridge Road project. We need to finish the south end and to further widen the north end. Gary Green said that we need \$100,000 to \$150,000 more.

Evangeline James volunteered to draft a proposal to PG&E for \$100,000 to do fuel reduction along one driveway and to indicate that we have several more similar driveways to do when and if funds become available.

2. **Project Management:** Greg Holquist (Western Forestry Consultant LLC) is willing to be the Project Manager on our upcoming projects but we must avoid conflicts of interest and we must seek competitive bids. The names of two additional vegetation management consultants were suggested, Don Gasser and Nelson Money. The group agreed to seek 3 competitive bids.
3. **CWPP:** Evangeline James is continuing to work with Bill Robertson on the CWPP revision. She will consult with Greg Holquist for any additional needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** No update

2. **National Firewise Community status:** No update
3. **Napa County Corrections crews:** No update. We will table this idea for the time being.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **May Community Pancake Breakfast and Open House:** After consulting calendars, the group agreed to hold the annual spring open house on Sunday May 17. Bill Robertson agreed to lead the planning. Greg Holquist agreed to produce a map of our projects.

We agreed that the presentation part of the open house would cover the following:

- a. Visit by Korean group
- b. Lokoya Perimeter project
- c. Old Ridge Road project
- d. Address signs

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: none

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 23
Carole Meredith's house, 4967 Dry Creek Road