



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, May 23, 2015

LOCATION: Carole Meredith's house, 4967 Dry Creek Road

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

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Add cameras on internet towers

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The 4/25/15 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: None

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. We will need to spend the money by the end of June. Greg Holquist will notify the Wall Road residents. Marge Bunch gave him all the names and email addresses. Greg will get 2 crews that will work 10-hour days. They will be from Family Tree and Mario. The contract with Family Tree has been signed.

This project did not go out to bid because of the time constraint. So a single source justification letter will be needed for the file. The encroachment permit has been obtained from the county and the fee was waived.

The work will start on June 1 and will last one week. The clearing will extend at least 25 feet from the roadway center line. (It is not known whether that will be 25 feet horizontal or topographical.)

- b. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program:** Our grant application for Lokoya Community Fuel Reduction has been approved for \$75,000 and the work must be completed within 2 years. The final documents were received from Cal Fire on May 22 and include a 43-page grant agreement.

This project will open up the old Lokoya Road that that there will be more than one way in and out.

The next step is to contact Don Gasser or Nelson Money to get the required Negative Declaration from a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), which is what Megan Sheeline of Cal Fire said we must do.

We need to get 3 bids for the RPF because we have never hired an RPF before. If we choose someone, we can qualify them and then use them again for years. We can qualify more than one vendor for a service.

- c. **PG&E CEMA grant (emergency drought funds):** We will use these funds for fuel reduction along the Nordlinger driveway that is shared by several addresses. This driveway ends approximately 100 yards from the ridgeline at the Nordlinger residence and extends all the way to the ridge at the Bachich residence. Joe Nordlinger has already contacted all the residents along this driveway and some have already completed some work. (For example, significant fuel reduction has already been performed near the Bachich residence.)

The project will also include the Chapman property, which does not lie along the driveway but does include a power line that runs up to properties along the road. Joanne Sutro proposed that we ask Community Projects for money for defensible space improvement on the Chapman property, since she is an elderly widow and not able to undertake the work herself.

This goal of this project will be primarily to create a fuel break as opposed to the improvement of emergency access and egress. Specific planning for this work will begin in late June, after Greg Holquist returns from vacation. It is envisioned that this will be the first in a series of projects to create fuel breaks along private access roads that run between public roads and ridgelines. This first project will be designated Local Access Road #1 (LAR #1).

- d. **14-USFS-SFAX0063 Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break grant:** We have received half of the funds for this project, which is enough for 10 days of crew time. We hope to start at the end of June. We still need permission from one or two property owners.

- 2. **Project Management:** Bid requests were sent to 3 people. One chose not to bid and one has not responded. Greg Holquist responded and was selected.

The potential for conflict of interest was discussed but the group agreed that no conflict exists because the work will not be done at Greg's discretion and also because as Chair, he does not get to vote on the selection of the contractor.

- 3. **Spring Community Open House review:** The turnout for the event was poor, consistently mostly of firefighters and MVFSC members. How can the event be improved? Suggestions included the following:
 - a. Rehearse the talks so that they are better organized and briefer
 - b. Present just what we've done in the last 12 months, not the last 5 years.
 - c. Explain what will be driving our decisions over the next 12 months.

- d. Offer to give green address signs to residents, but they must come to the meeting to get them.

A motion was made and approved that the MVFSC pay for 50% of the Open House costs. It was suggested that we might seek sponsors to defray these costs. A possible sponsor is Baileys, a forestry supply company that recently moved to Woodland.

4. **CWPP:** Evangeline James is continuing to work with Bill Robertson on the CWPP revision. She will try to get it finished within the next month and then pass it along to Greg Holquist.

She will add something about power lines and driveways. We need to know where critical power lines are located. We'll try to get this information from Greg Holquist or PG&E.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** No update
2. **National Firewise Community status:** No update
3. **Napa County Corrections crews:** No update. This topic has been tabled and should be removed from the agenda for future meetings.
4. **Community Projects:** Joanne Sutro asked what had happened to the letter of thanks that she drafted and given to Kelly Wallace. If it has not yet been sent, we can add a request for money for the Chapman property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Fire spotting cameras on communication towers:** There is precedent for this in other counties. Microwave towers in our neighborhood are sited specifically for their extensive line of sight coverage so would make excellent locations for fire spotting cameras. We should propose this to Cal Fire and the Napa County Board of Supervisors. Now would be a good time, since the next budget is being drafted, but the group agreed that it was premature since we did not yet have enough information.
2. **Firewood:** We need to get rid of the firewood! The group agreed that we should not give it away, but we should consider reducing the price. Suggestions included \$75 or \$100 for a split cord. And the big rounds would be given away free.

It was moved and approved by those present that we offer the firewood at \$100 for a split cord and \$50 for an un-split cord. Rounds greater than 30 inches in diameter would be free. The wood must be picked up at the fire station. We agreed that an email with this offer would be sent out to the community email list.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation annual meeting will be from 1 to 5 pm on July 18. (This is the same date as the Home Winemakers Classic, so presents a conflict for some.)

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 27
Dry Creek Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road