



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, July 25, 2015

LOCATION: Joanne Sutro and Wayne Cain's residence, 4143 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Greg Holquist, Bill Robertson, Ken Van Oeveren, Joanne Sutro, Wayne Cain, Carole Meredith, Gary Green

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Ken Van Oeveren requested that we discuss our Conflict of Interest policy and the Monthly Report to the Board.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The 6/27/15 minutes were approved

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that we have \$18,763.64 in our checking account, not counting the PG&E check that just arrived. The bill for the sandwich boards (\$624.40) has not yet been paid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Project updates:

- a. **Tree contractor bid results:** Greg Holquist reported that bids were requested from Davey Tree (a large company), Family Tree (medium-sized company) and Pacific Tree (small company). Pacific Tree did not respond. Davey Tree phoned and met with Greg. Davey Tree and Family Tree also sent email responses.

Davey Tree bid \$130/hour for a 2-man crew plus a chipper and \$60/hour for a supervisor. For the Wall Road project, Family Tree had charged \$150/hour for a 2-man crew plus chipper and \$60/hour for a supervisor. But for the new projects, they bid \$125/hour for a 2-man crew plus \$60/hour for a supervisor. So for what we want (2 x 2-man crews plus 1 supervisor), the price is \$310/hour.

By email, Gary Green approved Family Tree as the contractor of choice. Greg Holquist will forward that email to Evangeline James and Ken Van Oeveren for the record.

- b. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program / Lokoya Fuel reduction:** Greg Holquist said that this will be our last project for 2015. We have

2 years to spend that money. He anticipates that the work will take place in October and/or November.

- c. **Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break grant (CAFSC):** Greg Holquist wants to start this project on August 3 or 4. He anticipates that it will require 20 days of work. He will talk to Greg Musgrave, the owner of Family Tree, on Wednesday 8/29. Family Tree will subcontract the work to Mario's Tree Service. Greg Holquist and Greg Musgrave will meet with Carole Meredith and Steve Lagier at their house to discuss the project.

Access to the project area is through Carole and Steve's vineyard and they will require that a dust suppression treatment be applied to the dirt road through vineyard to protect the grapevines from dust, which can cause spider mite infestations on the vines. Carole and Steve will investigate the cost of the dust suppression treatment. Carole will write a letter to justify the road treatment so that it can be covered by the grant. We will ask Family Tree to pay for the dust suppression treatment and then include it in their invoice to us.

- d. **Limited Access Road #1 (LAR#1)/ PG&E CEMA grant:** It is anticipated that this work will start at the beginning of September. We have received a check from PG&E for \$50,000 (50% of the award total). Greg Holquist has met with all but 2 of the residents along the road. Some residents may want more work around their homes, but Greg will ask them to contract directly with Family Tree. It is likely that not much work will be done around the powerlines because the terrain is too steep.

Greg has not yet met with Chapman. The assistance we are requesting from Community Projects for needy residents will be helpful here. The Chapman property is at very high risk but the resident is unable to do any clearing herself.

2. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFF) Annual Meeting:** The meeting has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 22. Bill Robertson, Greg Holquist and Carole Meredith plan to attend. We discussed our 2015-16 grant request and decided to request money for maintenance of completed projects. The Old Ridge Road segments that were completed in 2012 and 2013, in particular, are showing significant regrowth.

The next regular Saturday meeting of the MVFSC will be re-scheduled as it conflicts with the NCFF meeting.

3. **Home Winemakers Classic:** This event was poorly attended, possibly because of conflict with other events on that day.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **CWPP:** Since Evangeline James has not been able to finish it, Greg Holquist will ask Kelly Wallace to finish it up.
2. **Homeowners Insurance:** Gary Green distributed 2 letters prepared by the Napa County Fire Chief Scott Upton on behalf of Berryessa Estates and Berryessa Highlands, attesting to the efforts of their respective Fire Safe Councils to significantly reduce fire hazards in their neighborhoods, to assist those residents in

obtaining fire insurance. Gary also said that the DCLVFD now has an 1,800 gallon water tender but it is not yet ready to use.

3. **Funding to assist needy residents with fire safety:** Joanne Sutro has drafted a letter to Community Projects to thank them for their past support and ask for a lead gift of \$20,000 to help us establish a fund to improve fire safety around the homes of local residents who, for reasons related to age or physical disability or financial resources, are unable to assume responsibility for fire safety around their homes. It has been proposed that we try to raise \$50,000 for this fund over the next 18 months. Bill Robertson said he would mention this to Linda McClimans, who is active in Community Projects.
4. **Napa Valley Community Foundation Report:** No update
5. **National Firewise Community status:** No update

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Chipping:** Greg Holquist suggested a way to improve the county chipping program so that the piles for chipping left at the roadsides by residents don't sit as long. He said that Family Tree has a separate chipping crew and that they may soon be doing all the chipping for the Davey Tree crews that work around the county. Greg proposes that Napa County contract with Family Tree to do all the chipping for the free chipping program. Then the Family Tree chipping crew could chip those piles as they move around the county doing the Davey work.
2. **Conflict of Interest policy:** Ken Van Oeveren said that he has not yet sent our Conflict of Interest statement that Stephen Gort has requested. The DCLVFD conflict of interest statement is fine, but the Advisory Committee procedure needs modification to bring it into agreement with our current practices. The group discussed this and it was then moved and approved to remove the sentence in paragraph 3.5.1.1 that reads "The Chairman of the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council is directly responsible for the project leaders and as such is not expected to be a project leader them self." Greg Holquist said he would discuss this with Kelly Wallace.

Ken Van Oeveren thought that Gort should receive both the DCLVFD procedure and the Advisory Committee procedure. Carole Meredith thought that the DCLVFD procedure alone would be sufficient.
3. **Monthly report to the DCLVFD board:** Ken Van Oeveren stated that once a project is started, the board needs to receive a report on a monthly basis, either in writing or in person. Greg Holquist agreed to make this report in person to the board.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 am

Next Meeting: Sunday, August 23, 10 am
Dry Creek Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road