



## MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Saturday, August 23, 2015

**LOCATION:** Dry Creek Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road

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

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** Bill Robertson requested that we discuss recruitment and meeting advertisements. He also offered to show photos he took at the Rocky Fire. Ken Van Oeveren requested that we discuss neighborhood water sources.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** The 7/25/15 minutes were approved

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** None

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report because Gary Green was working on a fire.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### 1. Project updates:

- a. **Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break grant (CAFSC):** Greg Holquist reported that great progress has been made and the work has reached the southern end of the project.

Greg met with Kelly Wallace regarding the requirements of the grant. There have been changes from the original grant proposal (e.g., we did not use inmate labor). Kelly will continue to work with Liron Galliano. No invoices have yet been submitted. Family Tree will put everything into one invoice (labor, equipment, project management, dust suppression).

- b. **Limited Access Road #1 (LAR#1)/ PG&E CEMA grant:** Greg Holquist reported that he has met with all of the residents except Mike Hill and the Epsteins (and Chapman at 4300 Dry Creek Road). The work will begin on 8/31 and will last for 30 days (at 10 hours per day).
- c. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program / Lokoya Fuel reduction:** The required Registered Professional Forester (RFP) for this project will be Nelson Money. After he prepares the Negative Declaration (a CEQA

requirement), Megan Scheeline (Cal Fire) says it will take about 2 weeks to process the report and approve the work. So Greg anticipates that the Lokoya work will begin around October 26 and end before Thanksgiving.

2. **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFE) Annual Meeting:** Greg Holquist, Bill Robertson and Carole Meredith attended this meeting on Saturday, August 22 at Compadres. They prepared a presentation according to an outline specified by Stephen Gort of NCFE and the presentation was given by Carole that outlined our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; our recent accomplishments; and our funding request for 2015-16. We requested \$15,000 for maintenance of completed projects. It was apparent at the meeting that we will probably be awarded no more than half of that amount. Greg will revise our funding request accordingly.

The 7 other Napa County Fire Safe Councils also gave presentations. It was notable that even though the MVFSC is a small organization, the others are even smaller. Each of them has only a handful of active members. We discussed whether we might be able to help the other Napa County FSC's. Could we organize a meeting with the others? Should we invited them to our monthly meetings?

3. **NCFE Terms and Conditions:** Stephen Gort has issued "Terms and Conditions for participating in the Napa Firewise 2015-2016 Grant Program". Along with the requirement for a CWPP and Battalion Chief approval is the requirement for a conflict of interest policy that is signed by each voting member of the FSC. Gort provided a sample of a conflict of interest policy but it conflicts with our existing conflict of interest policy in that it prohibits members from acting as contractors for pay on NCFE grants.

It is not clear whether Gort has the authority to require that. The MVFSC is an advisory committee to the Dry Creek Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department, which has policies as part of the Napa County Fire Department. So NCFE cannot ask us to sign a document that is in conflict with our own.

It was proposed that instead of inviting Gort to one of our meetings to discuss the matter, it would be better if we went to an NCFE board meeting and talked to the entire board about it.

It was moved and approved that MVFSC representative(s) attend a NCFE board meeting to discuss the conflict of interest problem and explain to them that we cannot sign it.

4. **Wall Road grant application:** Greg Holquist reported that he got the application in by the July 30 deadline.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **CWPP:** Evangeline James said that she is willing to turn the CWPP revision over to Kelly Wallace as suggested at the previous meeting. Bill Robertson said he has also been working on it. But the group agreed that Kelly probably will not be able to take it on.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Water sources:** Now that the DCLVFD has a water tender, Ken Van Oeveren proposed that we ask residents to identify water sources on their properties. He wants them to specify the location, whether they are accessible to the large heavy water tender, and whether they have fire hose fittings.

The group approved the concept. It was suggested that we develop a survey form and send it out via NextDoor and email. Greg Holquist mentioned that questions about water sources could be incorporated into the 4291 property evaluations that we are proposing to undertake.

2. **Recruiting and advertising:** Bill Robertson proposed that we get A-frame signs that read "Meeting here today" to show residents where and when we are meeting. Bill thinks we need to be more proactive about getting people to attend meetings. But we need to make it clear that we are looking for active participation, not just meeting attendance. We need people willing to help on projects. We could devote the first minutes of meetings to introductions.

The group then discussed what things we specifically need help with and that we should develop a list of tasks where help is needed. As a start, the following were suggested:

- a) Social media marketing
- b) Road representatives
- c) Volunteers to help with the pancake breakfast
- d) Grant writing

We also wondered whether NCFE could incorporate more information about all the individual Napa FSC's into NCFE publications.

3. **Mount Veeder Appellation Wine Tasting:** Carole Meredith announced that this annual wine tasting event will be held on September 19 at the Hess Collection Winery. She said she would request permission for the MVFSC to put up their canopy at the event. This is a good opportunity to talk to winery and vineyard owners to get potential financial support. Carole said she could arrange complimentary admission for several MVFSC members to attend the event.
4. **Business membership category:** We should consider establishing membership categories for local wineries and vineyards as a means for them to offer financial support and stay informed about our activities that may affect them. Various category names were suggested: kindling, bonfire, inferno, spark, ember, flame, conflagration, etc.

**OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** 12:30 am

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, September 26, 9 am  
Joe Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road