



## **MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Saturday, October 22, 2022

**LOCATION:** Cindy Kerson's residence, 5101 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Nordlinger, Cindy Kerson, Bill Robertson, Bob Clark, Jeff Enos, Paul Woodward, Gary Green, Roger Provost, Carole Meredith,

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** none

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 24, 2022 meeting were approved

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):**

**Oakville Ridge Road:** The steering committee of 5 property owners is being assembled.

**Rutherford Fire Risk Assessment:** no update

### **Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFE) updates:**

**Firewise Community certification:** NCFE is paying to create a form to make it easy to get Firewise Community certification. Any community within the NCFE area will automatically qualify. (This is independent from the new state insurance rules.)

**Earmark Proposal Request from Feinstein:** This \$1.5 million is now part of the continuing resolution. It will require a 1:1 match so will be trying to get that from Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention grant program (see below). The program is open for applications from November through January. Funds will also be sought from the Land Trust of Napa County because the project is close to the Archer Taylor Preserve. The money will likely become available in June or July 2023. If the match is obtained, there will be enough money to do the entire Napa/Sonoma boundary area.

**Harlan/Phillips and Enchanted Hills:** NCFE is pursuing \$5.5 million from the Cal Fire Forest Health grant program. Don Gasser and Esther Mandeno are making progress with the advance work. The grant window is expected to open in January 2023.

**Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant request:** NCFE is requesting about \$7 million for the Hogback match and additional vegetation treatment, planning and community outreach and education activities.

**FEMA BRIC:** The NCCFF grants team has submitted a Notification of Intent for \$50 million, of which \$25 million will go to individual residents for home hardening and defensible space and \$25 million for fuel reduction projects. The application is due on 12/3 and a 70/30 match is required.

**Old NCCFF business:**

Approximately \$30,000 is remaining from the Dodd holiday fundraiser. This will go to extending fuel reduction on Whitehall Lane and on the Cara Landry property on Campbell Ranch Road.

The FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant proposal for \$35 million still looks promising. It will include approximately \$6.5 million for the Nuns Complex and will include projects around the Rutherford Bench, the Veterans Home and 6 other projects in the MVFSC area.

**PROJECT REPORTS**

**Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grant (FPG) (Jeff Enos, Project Manager):** Work has started on the Bald Mountain/Wall Road area. The CEQAs have been located for the Old Ridge Road and Lokoya Road areas and all owner permissions have been obtained. Scoping continues on the Redwood Road and Partrick Road areas and some owner agreements are still needed. The De La Salle Institute on Redwood Road requires a few wording changes.

On the Old Ridge Road, everything north of the Bloch property will be included. The access to Mount Veeder Road at the northwest end will be changed from the narrow and degraded Redwood Cemetery driveway to the vineyard road through the Paras property. The start of work will depend on the county's environmental requirements and is likely to be in the spring of 2023.

**Prescribed burn:** Plans for the prescribed burn across several contiguous properties near the ridge west of Dry Creek Road have progressed. Preparatory clearing has been completed and containment lines are in. Cal Fire is supportive. The burn will take place on a weekend when weather conditions are suitable. It is envisioned that additional contiguous parcels will be added in the future to extend the treated area all the way down to Dry Creek Road.

**Neighbors in Need (Roger Provost):** Roger evaluated the proposed project on Mount Veeder Road and thinks it qualifies. The board voted on and approved the project. Joseph Nordlinger will contact Greg Holquist and ask him to proceed.

**Neon contact database:** (Joanne Sutro was absent.) Our concerns about the lack of progress with Neon implementation will be taken up at the next Neon training meeting on November 9.

**Home Winemakers' Classic:** The books have been closed out on the event. Two donations have been received for next year. Joe would like to see a 30% increase in revenue next year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The checking account bank balance is \$150,996.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**Next Meeting:** 9 am, December 3, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:00 am