



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

**DATE:** Saturday, June 3, 2023

**LOCATION:** Joanne Sutro's residence, 4143 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Nordlinger, Bill Robertson, Basil Enan, Bob Clark, Gary Green, Jeff Enos, Roger Provost, Paul Woodward, Joanne Sutro, Ken Van Oeveren, Carole Meredith and guests Dan Woodard and Margaret Woodard

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** New A-frame road signs, landowner releases

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 22, 2023 meeting were approved with one abstention.

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

**New MVFSC CWPP:** Joe is working with Carol Rice on the new CWPP that will include Oakville Ridge Road and the Rutherford areas.

**Mayacamas "FSC":** That organization (part of the Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Department) has been awarded two of the three grants that MVFSC assisted them with – PG&E and Sonoma Ag & Open Space.

**NCCF and Napa County funds:** NCCF will likely receive \$3 to \$4 million, of which \$3 million will be for projects and \$1 million for capacity building.

Napa County is going to hire a fire administrator who will manage a number of contracts, including Cal Fire, NCCF and FEMA.

Jeff Enos distributed a spreadsheet showing NCCF funds remaining for fuel break maintenance and roadside clearing in the MVFSC area.

NCCF is going to hire a project and grants manager.

**Feinstein earmark:** The current focus is on obtaining landowner permissions from the end of Partrick Road to the end of Wall Road.

**Cal Fire Forest Health Grant (FHG) to NCCF:** Funded at \$1.1 million for Harlan, Phillips, Moffitt, and Enchanted Hills

**Cal Fire Wildfire Protection Grant (WPG):** Funded at \$1.1 million for Napa-Sonoma border. (The request was for \$9 million.)

**FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** Only one (Tubbs) of the two parts submitted has advanced to the FEMA panel.

**FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):** This proposal has advanced to the FEMA panel. It includes fuel reduction in the area of lower Dry Creek Road to Redwood Road, across Alston Park.

**Landowner Releases:** Joe expressed concern that our mailing to request landowner permissions for roadside clearing went to ALL landowners, even if their property does not front on a county road. This may set an expectation among landowners that work will be done on their property even if we have no plans to work on their property. We need to increase the quality of our data so that we can identify and target owners of properties that front on a county road and/or on a limited access road and/or a shaded fuel break.

## PROJECT REPORTS

**Napa County funds and Cal Fire funds (Jeff Enos, Project Manager):** The California Vegetation Treatment Program is being used to achieve CEQA compliance for multiple projects over a longer period. A botany surveyor has been surveying project areas on Mount Veeder and elsewhere. For each project area, multiple surveys are required to cover different stages of plant development. The survey process must be complete before a project can be started.

Work has started on Bald Mountain. Wall Road has been completed. Whitehall Lane is almost completed.

The total funding needed for all the projects is \$200 million, of which \$150 million is in the county responsibility area and about \$50 million is on large private properties. The county is losing enthusiasm for funding.

**Neighbors in Need (Roger Provost):** There are three outstanding applications, one on Wall Road and two on Mount Veeder Road. The owners of the Wall Road property do not seem to have financial need. Roger has told them no but will discuss with them further and tell them about the NCCFF cost sharing program. The owners of one of the Mount Veeder Road properties also do not have obvious financial need. Roger has proposed that they share the cost of the work. He will also tell them about the NCCFF cost sharing program. The owner of the second Mount Veeder Road property does not want to cost share. Roger will go back and reevaluate the scope of work.

**Neon contact database (Joanne Sutro):** A recent hard copy mailing about roadside clearing produced good results. For Home Winemakers Classic emailing, the existing Mailchimp list was used. We are paying both for Neon and for Jasmin's time to work with the Neon system, so we must make sure we are using that money effectively.

**Home Winemakers Classic:** We have 19 home winemakers for 2023. WE are now allowing wines that are produced at commercial facilities (but by non-commercial winemakers). Sponsorships are now up to \$13,000. We may wish to ask NCCFF to help promote it. Sasha Paulsen (Napa Valley Features) is doing a story, focusing on female firefighters, and the history of the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department and the Home Winemakers Classic.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The MVFSC bank balance is \$73,765.48. The Home Winemakers Classic has a current balance of \$38,579.89.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A-Frame Road Signs:** Jeff Enos proposed that we get 4 new A-frame signs that are larger and lighter than our current signs. The cost is \$500 each for 1-sided and \$550 for 2-sided signs. Perhaps NCFE could pay for them?

**Next Meeting:** 9 am, July 8, 2023 at Gary Green's house, 5410 Dry Creek Road

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:30 am