



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

**DATE:** Saturday, February 26, 2017

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Nordlinger, Bill Robertson, Gary Green, Russell Van Dewark, Jeff Enos, Carole Meredith

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** 5 items were added under New Business

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 4, 2017 meeting were approved with modifications.

Jeff Enos introduced himself. He is a retired Battalion Chief with Contra Costa County Fire and is a volunteer at Enchanted Hills Camp. He is interested in further integrating Enchanted Hills into fire prevention activities and generally improving their emergency preparedness.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Joseph Nordlinger reported that he has identified a candidate bookkeeper. Lori Sutcliffe has QuickBooks experience and charges \$25/hour. Joe proposes to ask her to restructure the chart of accounts to better manage grants and project expenses. Gary Green proposed an additional Grant 2017 category in order to avoid the need to hire a bookkeeper. But Joe wants to take a more long-term view of the MVFSC bookkeeping and thinks we need a bookkeeper in order to avoid the need to have a firefighter trying to do bookkeeping. It was pointed out that the bookkeeper would need to follow DCLVFD SOP 002. It was moved and approved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$250 to have Lori Sutcliffe look at our books. This expense will be entered in category 712 Other in our budget.

Joe reported that he has met with representatives of the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation and that they have asked him to serve on their board.

Joe is working on a PG&E proposal with Tony Walls of PG&E. Joe can articulate the proposed Limited Access Road (LAR) projects and the legacy projects but requested assistance in identifying specific problematic county road segments by March 6, 2017. He wants to identify each segment by address range (e.g., 6200 to 6400 Dry Creek Road) and describe the problems (e.g., overhanging tree branches, leaning trees, power lines present). Russell Van Dewark and Bill Robertson agreed to identify critical segments on Mt. Veeder Road and Gary Green will do Dry Creek Road. (Russell Van Dewark mentioned an area near 3351 Mt. Veeder Road that is sliding and where trees

are threatening power lines.) Jeff Enos expressed his interest in connecting Enchanted Hills to Dry Creek Road via the Old Stage Road.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** We have \$55,147.83 in the checking account. The revised 2017 budget is approved.

### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

1. **Neighbors in Need program:** Carole Meredith has posted a notice on Nextdoor and will soon send it to the community email list. We will try to identify 2 residents on Wall Road who need assistance, so that we can coordinate that work with our Wall Road project. Gary Green will ask Alice Zacherle and Carl Bunch for names.
2. **Website store:** Ken continues to receive email notifications about transactions in the website shopping cart despite Carole Meredith having tried 3 times to change this. She will now remove Ken's name completely from the shopping cart account to see if that stops the notifications.

### **EDUCATION AND EVENTS**

1. **Annual Community Open House and Breakfast:** Saturday May 6 from 8 to 10:30 am. This is National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Gary Green has invited Joe Buchmeier and Jeff Belyea from Cal Fire and Joe Peterson, the Napa County Fire Marshal to discuss evacuation. Topics to be covered will include who is authorized to issue an evacuation order and what does it actually mean.  
  
Carole Meredith will try to obtain the video footage of the 10/10/16 Creek Fire that was shot by the ABC7 helicopter so that it can be shown during our event.
2. **Newsletter:** Gary Green is putting together the newsletter, with contributions about MVFSC activities from Joe Nordlinger.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Firewood:** The possibility of having another work party to split the remaining wood was discussed but no decision was made.
2. **Fundraising:** The next push is awaiting Joanne Sutro's revision of the donation request letter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **MVFSC becoming a 501c3:** MVFSC was structured as a committee of the DCLVFD, which does have 501c3 status, because that gave us the legal status to get grants. Now, however, we are increasingly constrained by being subordinate to the DCLVFD Board and not being financially independent. If the MVFSC were a 501c3 organization itself, we would be able to operate more efficiently and effectively.

The process of becoming a 501c3 could be very time consuming. We need to identify and consult other Fire Safe Councils that are already independent 501c3 organizations. We would probably need to obtain our own insurance to cover the liability incurred by advising residents about what to do on their property. It was

suggested that Kelly Wallace be asked to help. A motion was passed that the MVFSC Board investigate what it would take to become a 501c3 by 2018.

2. **Physical location of MVFSC records:** Gary Green has identified 2 locations at which 40 to 50 bankers boxes could be stored at a cost of about \$48/month. The DCLVFD Board will choose a place.
3. **Meeting regarding road conditions:** Gary Green reported that Supervisor Ryan Gregory and representatives from the Napa County Public Works Department will attend a community meeting on March 7. Possible locations include the DCLVFD fire station and Enchanted Hills Camp.
4. **County chipping program:** The Napa County Fire Department has sold its chipper and the pickup that towed it. Gary Green learned from Mark Barclay (retired Cal Fire Battalion Chief) that the county will go back to hiring private contractors to do the chipping. It is unknown whether the program will otherwise operate the same as it has in the past.
5. **Enchanted Hills and the Mount Veeder community:** Jeff Enos wants to see Enchanted Hills included in considerations of fire safety and emergency planning for our community. He doesn't think Enchanted Hills should be evacuated in an emergency because there are too many people there. He thinks Enchanted Hills could be a suitable shelter location.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:30 am

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, March 25, 9 am  
Dry Creek-Lokoya Fire Station  
5900 Dry Creek Road