



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

**DATE:** Saturday, June 3, 2017

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Nordlinger, Joanne Sutro, Bill Robertson, Jeff Enos, Carole Meredith, Greg Holquist

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** none

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 22, 2017 meeting were approved with changes.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**NCFF:** Joe Nordlinger reported that he attended the May 19 board meeting of the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFF). He noted that the NCFF board does not accept ex officio members. Rather, each individual must be approved. As a consequence, no one else can represent the MVFSC at NCFF board meetings should Joe not be able to attend.

June 9 is the deadline for invoices for NCFF projects, even though the deadline for completion of the work is June 30.

**Wildfire Preparedness event at Napa Expo:** Joe will represent MVFSC at the Community Wildfire Preparedness Day on June 17 at Napa Expo. He would like additional representation. The group discussed generating maps of our recently completed and upcoming projects for display at this event. Joe and Greg Holquist agreed to work on this.

**Donation:** The Land Trust of Napa County donated \$500 to our Neighbors in Need program. Carole Meredith agreed to acknowledge this donation on Mount Veeder Nextdoor

**501(c)(3):** Joe is continuing to discuss our becoming an independent 501(c)(3) organization with Kelly Wallace.

**CWPP:** Joe has received no response from Joe Buchmeier with regard to obtaining the signatures on our updated CWPP. It was noted that Buchmeier's position has changed and that Jason Martin is the new Battalion Chief, so perhaps he can help.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The 2017 MVFSC budget was approved by the DCL board. As of 5/23/17, the checking account balance was \$54,858.62 with an additional \$24,230.92 in the reserve account.

## **CURRENT BUSINESS**

1. **Project manager's report:** Greg Holquist is managing projects funded by \$10K from NCFE, \$112K from PG&E and \$152K from Cal Fire. The NCFE money will pay for maintenance work by Cal Fire inmate crews and a private contractor (Family Tree) will be hired for the Wall Road and LAR projects.

The NCFE money will pay for 3 weeks of Cal Fire inmate crew time. Week 1 will be maintenance at The Cove camp. Week 2 (6/12-6/16) will be at Enchanted Hills camp. We agreed not to ask Enchanted Hills to pay for this themselves. It was moved and approved to spend up to \$2K on Enchanted Hills. Week 3 (6/19-6/23) will be maintenance on the north end of the Old Ridge Road. Greg will be getting a pre-invoice from the Cal Fire inmate crew in order to meet the June 7 NCFE invoice deadline.

Family Tree will start on 7/5/17. They will first chip the wood generated by the inmate crew projects. They will then move to Wall Road (\$117K from Cal Fire) and the LAR off Redwood Road (\$35K from Cal Fire). The projects funded by Cal Fire require CEQA approval. Family Tree will then work on 3 LAR projects funded by PG&E (\$112K).

**Addendum:** After the 6/3/17 meeting, further discussion took place among Greg Holquist, Joe Nordlinger, and the PG&E representative about scheduling and prioritizing the PG&E-funded projects. It was proposed that the PG&E money be applied to LAR 7 instead of the 3 smaller LAR's. It was reasoned that LAR 7 is a more significant location than the smaller LAR's because it connects a public road to a ridgetop fuel break and thus contributes to compartmentalization of the watershed. It also can provide emergency access and egress to a large number of residents. The proposed change was discussed by email and put to an email vote. All were in favor with one abstention.

2. **Neighbors in Need projects:** The work for the 2 NIN candidates (6000 block of Dry Creek Road, 3100 block of Mount Veeder Road) will be scheduled along with the other project work by Greg Holquist according to geography and private crew availability. The applicants will be notified (by Carole Meredith) that they have been approved and Greg will contact them regarding the scope and scheduling of the work. They will be asked to sign a release of liability before the work starts. The assistance of Evangeline James and Kelly Wallace will be sought in this regard.
3. **Payment gateway:** A new PayPal payment process for the MVFSC is now functional.

## **EDUCATION AND EVENTS**

1. **Review of May 6 Pancake Breakfast:** Joe Nordlinger reported that he had incorporated names and addresses collected at the event into our master database. Jeff Enos expressed concern that there was no representative from the Napa County

Sheriff's Office as originally planned. Jeff also said he was planning to further investigate Napa County's emergency notification system, or lack thereof.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**New proposals and opportunities:** Joe Nordlinger asked whether it makes sense for us to pay an outside company to generate sophisticated and multidisciplinary material about our geographic area that we could use to strengthen major grant applications, such as an application to the Cal Fire Forest Health Program next year. For example, we could have graphics that illustrate drainages, vegetation types, old logging and fire roads, water catchment resources. We need better information about what is here now and what we could do to improve the resiliency of our neighborhood. What assets could we invest in? Solar infrastructure? Electrical infrastructure? Water infrastructure? Would we want to re-establish major old logging roads? We could also consider whether other local stakeholders might want to help pay for this (e.g., Land Trust of Napa County, Napa County Resource Conservation District) and whether the effort should be expanded beyond the immediate Mount Veeder neighborhood, for example to the Sonoma County side of the hills.

We would need to request bids from more than one company. But inclusion of more organizations and extension to a wider geographic area would complicate the process. Joe said he will start to reach out to appropriate contacts.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 12:15 pm

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, June 24, 9 am  
Carole Meredith's house  
4967 Dry Creek Road