



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, July 22, 2017

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Bill Robertson, Carole Meredith, Jeff Enos, Kelly Wallace

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the June 24, 2017 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

NCFF: Joe Nordlinger learned at the NCFF board meeting that the NCFF received a \$2,000 donation from the Gasser Foundation. Joe wants to know more about the process and wondered whether MVFSC could pursue funding from them. Bill Robertson agreed to ask Tim Streblov.

The NCFF pursues donations by email and also by regular mail that includes a remit envelope. The cost is \$500 to go to 4,500 residents. Could the MVFSC do that for our neighborhood?

The deadline date for new funding applications to NCFF has not yet been set. The date for the joint meeting of Fire Safe Councils and NCFF may be in September but has not been set.

At its board meeting, the NCFF discussed the cancellation of the SRA fee and its consequences for fire prevention activities since it has been the source of a Cal Fire grant program. Darren Drake said he would talk to Barry Biermann (Napa County Fire Chief) about it.

Joe is still trying to set up a meeting with Supervisors Diane Dillon and Ryan Gregory.

The CWPP requires only one more signature, that of Shana Jones, Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief.

Multi-parcel project: Tim Morin will probably do the forestry management plan. He is preparing a proposal.

Outstanding donations: Joe has been trying to track down the \$250 that was awarded to MVFSC by the California Fire Safe Council at the June Wildfire Preparedness Event.

Bill Robertson thinks it was put in the silver box at the fire station. Since Troy Tyner has been unable to make his planned donation via the MVFSC website, Carole Meredith said she'd contact him about an alternative means of making his donation.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of 7/18/17, the checking account balance was \$54,706.38 with an additional \$24,230.92 in the reserve account.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Project manager's report (Greg Holquist):

NCCF funds: The Cove and Enchanted Hills work is done.

Cal Fire SRA funds: The 2 projects funded by the Cal Fire SRA funds (Wall Road and the LAR off Redwood Road) have still not been started of CEQA-related delays.

PG&E funds: The LAR 7 project has been delayed because one property owner will not grant permission for the work to be done on his property. This owner's parcel is also held in a conservation easement by the Land Trust of Napa County, which must also grant permission. It was suggested that the plan of work might be revised to confine the fuel reduction work to within the boundaries of the road easements held by the 6 property owners who use LAR 7 to access their homes.

2. **Neighbors in Need projects:** The work has not yet been done because we do not yet have contract wording. Kelly Wallace was present to discuss the liability release that we have said we would require NIN recipients to sign. He asked what kind of liability do we want to be released from? One example would be the case of a future fire on the property after MVFSC represented the NIN work as making the property fire safe. Release from this kind of liability could be included in a contract with the resident. Another situation could arise if the property were damaged by a tree falling on the house during the course of the work. In this case, the liability release could be in the contract with the private contractor performing the work. Kelly said he would prepare specific wording to release MVFSC from liability and create a template that we could use in the future.

With regard to the NIN candidate on Lokoya Road, Bill Robertson said he gave a NIN application to a close relative of the candidate and the relative agreed to pass along the application to the candidate's daughter.

3. **501c3:** Kelly Wallace said that we have been in operation for more than 10 years, so we can just keep using those procedures. He said that setting up a corporation is easy but filing the federal form to become a non-profit can be tricky. We would need to submit Form 1023 to the IRS and Form 3500 to the California FTB. The cost would include an initial \$800 to the FTB. Kelly was not sure whether this would be an annual expense. We would also need to get "director insurance", an expense now covered by the DCLVFD. We would not need liability insurance. We would also need to pay a bookkeeper. We would need to determine whether the increased control that we would gain would be worth the additional expenses we would incur. New non-profit corporation status usually takes effect at the beginning of the year. It was decided to defer further discussion to a future meeting with larger attendance.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

1. Joe Nordlinger has learned that the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation funds Sudden Oak Death research and wondered whether removing bay trees to reduce SOD would also reduce fire risk.
2. The Western States Fire Safe Council will award \$300,000 grants. Applications are due 9/15. We need to find out more about this program.

Is there any grant money available related to beetle kill?

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Emergency Notification System:** Jeff Enos wants the county to test its NIXLE emergency notification system. How many residents are actually reached? Do the notifications include evacuation routes? The sign-up procedure is confusing because you need to sign up for several different agencies to receive all emergency notifications. Jeff will continue to pursue this with the Napa County Sheriff's Department and other agencies.
2. **Residential assessments:** We must be careful to differentiate between assessments and education. Jeff Enos is eager to pursue this. We must be careful to avoid liability problems. Perhaps we could develop a release form for the resident to sign upon receiving advice from Jeff. Bill Robertson showed the form that he used when he used to do residential assessments. Bill's form contained a disclaimer and required the signature of the resident.
3. **Electronic media manager:** Do we need a person to assume responsibility for our website, e-commerce and social media activities? It would be someone who would not just execute but also be creative regarding marketing and outreach opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:55 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 26, 9 am
DCL Fire Station
5900 Dry Creek Road