



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, August 26, 2017

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Bill Robertson, Ken Van Oeveren, Carole Meredith, Greg Holquist, Evangeline James (by telephone)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the July 22, 2017 meeting were approved with 2 changes

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT (Greg Holquist):

LAR 7: Joe Nordlinger recounted that at the July 22 meeting the MVFSC Board was made aware that the owners of a parcel through which LAR 7 passes wanted to prevent the shaded fuel break project from going forward. (These owners do not use LAR 7.) Carole Meredith stated that the 6 property owners who use LAR 7 to access their homes have engaged an attorney to represent their interests in having the project proceed.

The parcel owned by the objecting property owners is held in a conservation easement by the Land Trust of Napa County. Evangeline James said it is her understanding, based on communication with the attorney for the Land Trust, that the Land Trust acknowledges that the 6 users of LAR 7 have access easements senior to the conservation easement and does not object to the work as long as it is restricted to the area within the easement boundaries.

The group agreed that it was advisable to formally engage Evangeline James to legally represent MVFSC on this matter, which she had heretofore been doing informally. It was moved, seconded and approved that she be hired to work on the LAR 7 issue, retroactive to the date she was first contacted by the Land Trust attorney.

Discussion ensued about whether MVFSC was at risk of being sued. Gary Green, representing the DCLVFD Board, said that the Board does not want any further work performed on LAR 7 without signed approvals from the objecting property owners and the Land Trust, which is consistent with the policy that has been employed by Greg Holquist in managing this and other projects. Evangeline said litigation is unlikely as long as no work is done without permission. In response to a question, she said that if the objecting property owners create risk for others by refusing to permit the work, then

they could be liable in the case of a fire in the area where they refused to permit the work.

Greg Holquist said that he spent 3 hours with the objecting property owners showing them the completed work on LAR 1. He has assured them that he will not work on their property without their permission. Greg reported that about half of the PG&E grant has been spent. If the LAR 7 project does not proceed, the group agreed that the balance of the PG&E funds be spent for clearing under the PG&E right of way near LAR 7 and on Old Ridge Road maintenance. It was suggested that the remaining money could be used for other LAR projects, but the group agreed that the process to redirect the money would be too difficult and time-consuming.

Payments: Greg has had CEQA documents for the Wall Road and Redwood Road projects prepared by Tim Morin at Davey Resource Group and expressed concern that bills from Davey have not been paid, but Gary Green said that the checks have been written. Cal Fire (which is funding both projects) will reimburse MVFSC for this work but their process is very slow.

Some project expenses must be paid before the MVFSC receives the grant funds (Davey Resource Group, Western Forestry Consulting), but bills from Family Tree are paid within 30 days of the work being done.

Neighbors in Need projects: No work has yet been done at the Mt. Veeder Road residence because of difficulty scheduling a secondary inspection with the resident. The Dry Creek Road residence also needs a secondary inspection. This project will require weed eaters but Family Tree doesn't have them. Greg may rent them or borrow them from NCFE. There is no new information on the Lokoya Road residence. We still have not received the contracts to be used for the NIN projects from Kelly Wallace. Joe Nordlinger said he will ask Kelly again.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

Joe said there had been no NCFE meeting. He said he wants to talk to Joanne Sutro about mass mailings. He is still trying to meet with Diane Dillon and Ryan Gregory.

Carol Rice has said that future Cal Fire grant money will go through the Greenhouse Gas program, which has a more complicated application and review process. Joe will look into it.

In response to concerns that the MVFSC should not engage in advocacy, Joe said that the MVFSC bylaws do not address advocacy. It was pointed out that the MVFSC Bylaws are still in draft form and have never been approved. The MVFSC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP 002) have been approved by the Board of Directors of the DCLVFD.

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

Tim Morin will do the forestry management plan for the multi-parcel project.

Joe asked about the current state of the online donation system. Gary Green reported that he has established a new email address (mvfsc@drycreek.org) to use with PayPal, as the previous address he had tried to use is owned by Larry Russell. Gary reported that PayPal is now testing the link to the checking account.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of 8/12/17, the checking account balance was \$109,474.54 (which includes the first payment from PG&E) with an additional \$24,230.92 in the reserve account. Website expenses have been higher than anticipated because of the need to establish a new storefront.

OLD BUSINESS: No updates

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:40 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, September 23, 9 am
DCL Fire Station
5900 Dry Creek Road