



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, December 23, 2017

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Bill Robertson, Jeff Enos, Carole Meredith, Greg Holquist

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Road signs

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the November 25, 2017 meeting were approved

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

After action review of projects: Joe has interviewed Mike St. John from Mill Valley who was the lead on firefighting efforts between LAR1 and LAR7. Joe's interview with Barry Bierman has been postponed because of the fire in Ventura County.

Federal funds: Stephen Gort is pushing us to apply for federal funds because there is \$13 million to be administered by the California Department of Forestry and we might be able to apply for \$400,000. But it will be an onerous process. Gort will send an example of a successful application.

Meeting with Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Department regarding new Fire Safe Council: Joe did not attend but Bill Robertson and Jeff Enos did. About 20 people showed up. There may be opportunities for collaborative projects between MVFSC and the new Mayacamas Fire Safe Council. Bill recommended to them that they start small.

NCFF: Our application for funding was approved so we will have \$10,000 from NCFF but we will not be able to use it for inmate crew days. NCFF would prefer that we use it for a project, not just for maintenance.

Shift to cleanup and recovery? We may need to shift our attention from shaded fuel breaks to logging and debris removal. But, the fire may have also provided openings for the development of additional fuel breaks. We may also want to promote fire hardening as a consideration for those who are rebuilding. Greg Holquist mentioned his proposal to PG&E to study what trees were removed and whether those decisions were sound. He is interested in studying the post-fire survival of different species.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT (Greg Holquist):

The next funding cycle for PG&E will be in Spring 2018 for the CEMA funds program (California state money available to public utilities for disaster-related expenditures).

LAR 7: The project was completed and the report submitted to PG&E.

Wall Road: The crew worked for 2.5 weeks before the fire. Greg submitted invoices to Cal Fire. \$17,000 was spent. Greg will try to get back to Wall Road in the spring.

Neighbors in Need projects: We should let Community Projects know how their money helped the recipients during the fire.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

(There is currently no treasurer since Jason Newton has left. Gary Green generated reports from the fire station computer.) The checking account balance is \$48,013 and the reserve fund contains \$24,230. The 2018 budget must be created. Most expense items will be unchanged from 2017. Gary Green will send the 2017 budget to Joe Nordlinger in spreadsheet form and Joe will spend some time on it.

OLD BUSINESS: Jeff Enos will update the statement he has written about emergency notification to indicate that it was written before the fire. He will emphasize that if residents want changes made in the current emergency notification system, they should contact their county supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road signs: Gary Green reported that the billboard sign on Dry Creek Road near Wall Road was damaged in the fire and must be replaced, including the peeler logs and concrete needed to mount it. And the billboard sign on lower Dry Creek Road needs to be reset because the posts are wobbly. It was agreed to add \$1000 to the existing \$467 in the budget for these signs. Gary Green will assist with resetting the posts. In addition, 1 or 2 of the A-frame signs also burned.

Newsletter: Gary Green is assembling the next DCLVFD - MVFSC newsletter. Joseph Nordlinger will contribute an article about our after-action review. Bill Robertson will contribute an article about community response to the fire. Carole Meredith will edit the drafts of both articles and forward them to Gary. The group agreed that it is important to convey to the community that the fire conditions negated many of our efforts. This was an extraordinary fire event in that because there were so many simultaneous fires in the region, there was no Cal Fire response to our neighborhood until day 6 (Friday), so there were no personnel present to use our fuel breaks as a means to manage the fire.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:50 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 27, 9 am
Joseph Nordlinger's house
4297 Dry Creek Road