



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, January 27, 2018

LOCATION: Joseph Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Bill Robertson, Joanne Sutro, Carole Meredith

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Renew CAGE number

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the December 23, 2017 meeting were approved

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

After action review of projects: Still in progress. Joe still hasn't met with Barry Bierman because Bierman had to reschedule. He will also meet with Ryan Gregory. Joe wants the county to see LAR's as strategic assets.

NCFF: Stephen Gort sent a sample of a successful application for federal funds that are being administered by the California Department of Forestry. Stephen Gort is retiring from NCFF but will continue with the California Fire Safe Council. There was no NCFF board meeting in January. NCFF received \$20,000 from PG&E that will be allocated to the individual Napa County Fire Safe Councils. We will get \$2,000.

Email from Monterey County Fire Safe Council: With the suspension of the SRA Fire Prevention Fee program, any future grants for SRA fire prevention projects will become "reimbursement grants", meaning that Fire Safe Councils will have to front the money for project expenses from their own funds and then seek reimbursement later. This will present a severe hardship to small Fire Safe Councils and the Monterey group is proposing that we all contact our elected representatives to express our concerns. We agreed that our group should write a position statement to give to Bill Dodd, including the salient points from the Monterey group's email and emphasizing that this will affect all the Napa County Fire Safe Councils and that it involves hundreds of thousands of dollars. Joanne Sutro agreed to contact Bill Dodd.

Forest Landowners of California newsletter: Joe met with Denise Levine and contributed to her newsletter.

Why did we not get firefighting resources sooner? Gary Green, volunteer chief of the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department, reported on his experience during the Nuns Fire as he attempted to get help to fight the fire in our neighborhood. In retrospect, Gary pointed out that it is clear that the Dry Creek-Lokoya VFD does not include enough

driver operators. Although the fire entered the Dry Creek-Lokoya responsibility area on Tuesday 10/10, despite Gary's formal requests, there was no official Cal Fire response until Friday 10/13. The paid engines at the Yountville station were told not to engage in firefighting. All evidence suggests that the Dry Creek-Lokoya area was a low priority in Napa County. Gary put out a request for assistance over the radio on Thursday. A Cal Fire engine from Lake County that was in Napa with no assignment responded. It was only after it was made clear that the Veterans Home in Yountville would be in grave danger should our fire cross Dry Creek Road that Cal Fire made additional resources available in our area on Friday 10/13.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT: No report as Greg Holquist was not present. We have remaining Cal Fire funding for projects on Wall Road and Redwood Road. The status of that funding is unclear.

NEW PROPOSALS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Napa Give Guide: There is no other non-profit on their list that is like us. We need to find out the deadline for applying for inclusion in the annual Give Guide.

Other opportunities include the California Climate Investments Fund (a new Cal Fire program) and the California Fire Safe Council (which requires a greenhouse gas calculation).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

(There is currently no treasurer since Jason Newton has left. Gary Green reported that the bank statements and the bookkeeping records on the fire station computer don't match. The checking account balance is \$49,345 as of 1/26/18 in the internal records and \$49,840 on the 12/29/17 bank statement. But the internal records show the reserve fund as having \$24,230 whereas the bank shows only \$10,024 in the money market account. We must investigate and reconcile this difference.

2018 budget: Several adjustments were made to the 2017 budget amounts. Income from NCFF was increased to \$12,000 to include the new PG&E money that we will receive from NCFF. And grant income from Cal Fire is now projected to be \$100,000 from the California Climate Investment Fund. Expenses for website management and office supplies were increased to \$1,500 and \$300, respectively.

OLD BUSINESS:

Neighbors in Need: We have not spent all of our NIN funds because we have not been able identify enough candidates that meet our original criteria. It was agreed that we need to adjust these criteria to enable more to qualify. It was voted on and approved to modify the NIN application to give the MVFSC board discretion to unilaterally identify and approve qualifying candidates and to expand the qualifying criteria to include matching funds for applicants who do not meet the income requirements.

Newsletter: Gary Green is completing the newsletter. For the next newsletter, we will include an article about the Neighbors in Need program, including success stories and explaining the new criteria.

NEW BUSINESS:

Website: Gary Green has created a new MVFSC website and the domain is now **mtveederfiresafe.com** instead of **mtveederfiresafe.org**. Many links to our old .org exist so we need to continue to use .org. Gary will talk to GoDaddy about this. Joe asked Gary to add the current CWPP to the website.

Pancake Breakfast May 6: We will cover the emergency notification system. We will invite Diane Dillon to participate. We will advertise the event.

Road signs: Gary Green reported that the damaged billboard sign from upper Dry Creek Road near Wall Road is being rebuilt at the sign shop. The resetting of the wobbly sign on lower Dry Creek Road will be done by Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green and Bill Robertson on 2/3/18.

ADJOURNMENT: 12 noon

Next Meeting: Saturday, February 24, 9 am
Gary Green's house
5410 Dry Creek Road