



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, January 26, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Bill Robertson, Roger Provost, Paul Woodward, Jeff Enos, Carole Meredith, Evangeline James, Greg Holquist, Carol Rice, Esther Mandeno, Lisa Warner (Mayacamas Fire Safe Council), Kristen Drummond (Mayacamas Fire Safe Council), Lucas Patzek (Napa County Resource Conservation District)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Newsletter (Gary Green), hardening houses (Roger Provost)

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the December 22, 2018 meeting were approved with 1 correction

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

Joint projects with Mayacamas Fire Safe Council: 2 fuel reduction projects (Bald Mountain legacy fire road and Mount Veeder Peak legacy fire road) and 1 community education project (MMVCOEG). See Project Manager's report below for discussion of the 2 fuel reduction projects.

Mayacamas Mount Veeder Community Outreach Education Grant (MMVCOEG): We will authorize Carol Rice to contact property owners. We will need to gather the following information about each property: access, fuel, structures, water supply. We will use that data to build a database with parcel data plus contact information, with the hope that it will lead to an updated map. We need to figure out how to use that information to reach out to residents. It will be essential to involve key fire officials in each county. It was decided to start with the Cal Fire Battalion Chief on each side. Ultimately we will need to organize a project kickoff meeting of key people.

A motion was made and approved to ratify a contract between Dry Creek Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department and Wildland Resource Management Inc. (Carol Rice), not to exceed \$20,000, for MMVCOEG.

A motion was made and approved to ratify a contract between Dry Creek Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department and Digital Mapping Solutions (Esther Mandeno), not to exceed \$24,000, for MMVCOEG.

Opportunities for collaboration with Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD): Lucas Patzek (Executive Director) discussed the possibility of a workshop in April. Ag Innovations, a local non-profit focused on agriculture and ecosystems, has funding from PG&E to support a facilitated workshop related to fire prevention and/or resiliency. RCD has joint powers authority with Napa County that has been focused on post-fire erosion control but could now be directed toward fire preparedness. Lucas proposes a workshop to bring together county-wide parties, e.g. all the Fire Safe Councils. Or the workshop could be organized to support Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFE), to assist them in revitalization and renewed vision (see next item). It was noted that the NCFE website is outdated and in need of revision. Lucas also suggested that RCD might assist by hiring a staffer to write fire-related grants or to train Fire Safe Councils to write grants.

NCFE: Joe described the new mission plan (previously distributed) that focuses on assisting the individual Fire Safe Councils in planning, funding and executing projects.

Forest Health Grants (FHG): This is an opportunity for multi-parcel projects and could satisfy the property owner matching requirement of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The EQIP program also requires property owner outlay and subsequent reimbursement. The FHG program has a greenhouse gas calculation requirement and we don't have someone to do that so we haven't yet applied. Since we cannot meet this year's deadline, Joe has content ready to go for an application next year.

We have so far focused on projects that improve access and egress and on shaded fuel break projects. The multi-parcel projects would be more expansive, involving general forest floor management.

ACTIVE FUNDING

Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grants: applications have been submitted

California Fire Safe Council: Joe and Gary Green have an interview scheduled

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation: We will focus NCFE money on Enchanted Hills.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT (Greg Holquist):

Bald Mountain legacy fire road: Access will be via 215 Wall Road and the Bunch/Caldwell driveway at 351 Wall Road. It may be possible to get enough clearance on the Napa County side of the project that we may not need to work on the Sonoma County side. This is relevant because the Sonoma side is controlled by the Sonoma Land Trust. Material will be mostly chipped and broadcast on site. The treatment will be tailored to each property owner. Work will start on 1/28/19 and will take 2.5 to 3 months.

Mount Veeder Peak legacy fire road: No start date yet. Waiting on CEQA and RPF requirements to be satisfied. The project may begin in March or April.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Gary Green)

The checking account balance as of 1/10/19 was \$49,638.69 and the money market savings balance was \$10,039.04.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising letter: Joe expects to be able to resume work on this after all the grant applications have been finalized and to have it ready to go in August.

CWPP: Our current version is already 2 years old because it took so long to obtain all the required signatures. It already needs an update.

NEW BUSINESS:

Newsletter: Gary Green is requesting articles for the next newsletter. Joe will write an article providing a general update of MVFSC projects, a description of our partnership with Mayacamas FSC and our proposed multi-parcel projects.

Hardening homes: Roger Provost discussed the importance of providing information to residents. We don't have the money to conduct hardening work. There is PACE money for hardening but the interest rate is high. Perhaps we could provide financing advice. Is this something we could include in our Neighbors In Need program if we had more money? Since we'll never be able to stop all fires, we should focus on 100-foot clearance and fire-hardened houses.

Carol Rice said that there is some for FEMA money that will partially cover costs. Our planned community outreach program can include this.

Enchanted Hills: Jeff Enos has made a plan based on an inspection by Don Gasser in 2007 and a recent site visit with Greg Holquist. We will start with \$12,000 from NCfF as a start and perhaps add \$5,000 from our Neighbors in Need fund too.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:25 pm

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