



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, April 27, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Greg Holquist, Roger Provost, Jeff Enos, Carole Meredith

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: (The minutes of the March 23, 2019 meeting were distributed after the April 27 meeting and were approved by email with 2 changes.)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

NCFF/NRCD/Ag-Innovations moderated meeting: Joe Nordlinger, Bill Robertson and Jeff Enos plan to attend this moderated workshop on May 4.

NCFF updates: Tom Vreeland has resigned and Joe Nordlinger is now acting president. Christopher Thompson (Deer Park) is becoming more active and may become NCFF president. Cal Fire seems to want to support larger organized efforts. They have awarded \$99,000 for the countywide CWPP.

501(c)(3): no update

Mayacamas Mount Veeder Community Outreach Education Grant (MMVCOEG):

Esther Mandeno and Carol Rice have met with the Mayacamas Fire Safe Council (MFSC). They are trying to find a time slot for a larger meeting with the Dry Creek Lokoya Fire Department chief (Gary Green), the Mayacamas Fire Department chief, Ben Nichols and Tom Knecht (Cal Fire vegetation management for Sonoma and Napa, respectively) and MVFSC and MFSC personnel. A potential disconnect with Cal Fire is that they may not accept our maps, so we need to make sure that we use the same symbols, legends, etc. Mike Parks was the Cal Fire lead on our old attack map.

What device is best to use for inputting the data? A laptop enables typing but is unwieldy. Greg Holquist said that PG&E uses cell phones and an app called "Collector". Collector is a mobile data collection app made by Esri that permits data entry while disconnected from the internet.

ACTIVE FUNDING

Cal Fire: None of our 9 submitted proposals was funded. Greg Holquist mentioned that our lack of a specific budget item for traffic control was criticized but Cal Fire did not notice that our contractor Family Tree provides its own traffic control. There may also be the perception at Cal Fire that we already have enough money. Cal Fire personnel may be too overwhelmed to devote enough attention to the details of our proposals.

California Fire Safe Council (CA FSC): We will request funding for the southern end of the Oakville Ridge Road. We have funding for the northern end so we can use that as the matching funds that CA FSC requires. We can use the Cal Fire money that we do have as leverage to get CA FSC funds for new projects.

Community Projects: At the urging of Bill Robertson, we have requested \$20,000. Linda McClimans (Mount Veeder Road resident) is now the Community Projects president.

PG&E funds: Greg Holquist said that he thinks PG&E is stretched too thin financially right now to be funding any of our projects.

LAR1: Survey work has started.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Neighbors in Need projects:

1. **Dry Creek Road project:** Greg reported that Paul Woodward is not getting any response from the residents of the property we are proposing to work on. One house burned down, but the remaining house also needs work. Greg will contact Paul to try to communicate with the residents.
2. **Mount Veeder Road project:** The house burned in October 2017, but we removed some trees anyway. The property owner wants even more trees removed but we don't have the money for it. Greg will inform the owner.

Bald Mountain legacy fire road: Carraway sent her invoice and has been reimbursed. We have started the work, but Ben Nichols said our 2018 CEQA documents weren't enough for 2019. We submitted the new CEQA documents in February, but they haven't yet been approved.

We have not yet been reimbursed for two 2018 projects, **Redwood Road** and **Wall Road**. Because of this, our contractor (Family Tree) has not yet been paid for their 2018 work and they won't do any more work until they get paid. Greg submitted the invoice to Cal Fire on January 3, but Ben Nichols didn't look at it until the end of January. By the end of February, the invoice had been approved but as of late April it still has not been paid. Payment is supposed to be made within 45 days, but the countdown doesn't begin until the Cal Fire accounting department receives the invoice. That was apparently in mid-March so we may receive payment by the end of April.

Enchanted Hills: We have money for the project, but Family Tree won't work on it until they get paid. We can request more money for Enchanted Hills from CA FSC, but they

have a matching requirement. Joe asked Jeff Enos what other funding Enchanted Hills has received so that we could use it as a match.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Gary Green)

The checking account balance as of 3/15/19 was \$38,695.07 and the money market savings balance was \$10,044.28. We spent \$535.70 to reimburse Jeff Enos for his expenses to attend the Sea Ranch retreat. We also wrote a check for \$4,684 to the company that did the Carraway work on Wall Road, but that check has not cleared the bank.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Breakfast: Bill Robertson has organized the cooking. Speakers invited include Matt McDonald (Cal Fire Battalion Chief, St. Helena) and Jason Martin (Battalion Chief, South Napa County). Diane Dillon can't make it and no response has yet been received from Ryan Gregory. Gary Green wants to show a video. Jeff Enos will send the Orange County video.

Modifications to the Napa County Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance: Carole Meredith suggested that we propose modifications to this ordinance to encompass community-wide defensible space projects, not just the single-parcel measures mentioned in the ordinance. She would also like the ordinance to focus not just on punishment for failing to reduce fire hazards on one's property but also to emphasize the necessity for rural property owners to remove vegetation to improve fire safety. The recently passed Water Quality and Tree Protection Ordinance refers several times to the Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance in support of allowable fuel reduction but it does not explicitly encompass the kinds of projects that MVFSC and other FSC's want to undertake. Carole will review the Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance and suggest modifications.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:10 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 25, 9 am, Carole Meredith's house, 4967 Dry Creek Road