



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, May 25, 2019

LOCATION: Carole Meredith's residence, 4967 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Greg Holquist, Roger Provost, Jeff Enos, Paul Woodward, Carole Meredith, Bob Clark, Tom Knecht (Cal Fire)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the April 27, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes

Tom Knecht, Division Chief, Vegetation Management: Tom is responsible for vegetation management across 6 counties. (Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Colusa, Yolo, Solano). He recently assumed this position (he was previously Battalion Chief in charge of training) and is now building staff and getting them trained. He'll be hiring an environmental scientist who will be able to do environmental review without having to first go through the fire academy training. This is an improvement because the reviews were previously conducted by Forester I personnel, who are required to go to the fire academy. Tom hopes this will speed up CEQA reviews. He will also be hiring a Forestry Assistant II, who does have to go through fire academy training. It was suggested that if needy residents are identified in the course of Cal Fire inspections, MVFSC might be able to assist them through our Neighbors in Need program.

Tom's top priority regarding vegetation management is being able to get people out. He expressed the wish that the Sheriff's Office evacuation plans were better coordinated with Cal Fire.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

NCFE updates: Cal Fire will provide \$99,870 over 2 years to fund the development of the Napa County CWPP. Christopher Thompson (Deer Park) is the new NCFE president. Joe (previously acting president) is now a director. There are now more inexperienced people on NCFE, the experienced people having left.

Carol Rice and Lucas Paczek (NCRD) participated in the Legislative Lobby Day in Sacramento. New legislation will provide \$200,000 to NCFE over 3 years.

Napa Valley Community Foundation: They have new post-fire money (\$35 million) for community rebuilding. Joe will be meeting with Julia DeNatale on June 24 to discuss how MVFSC might use some of that money.

501(c)(3): Kelly Wallace has requested information for the application. Joe Nordlinger and Carole Meredith will be the contact people, the fiscal year will be calendar year. Gary Green will obtain the requested financial statements for the current fiscal year and the 3 preceding years. He also needs to describe past, present and planned activities, all of which can be extracted from our CWPP. We also need to identify officers and directors. We will use our current officers (Nordlinger, President; Robertson, VP; Green, Treasurer; Meredith, Secretary) and currently active directors. Joe will work with Kelly to complete the application.

Mayacamas Mount Veeder Community Outreach Education Grant (MMVCOEG): The first stakeholder meeting will be held on May 28. The scope of the program will be both to gather data and to make recommendations to residents. It will be important to move swiftly and not spend too much time at any one property. We can refer residents to our website.

ACTIVE FUNDING

California Fire Safe Council (CA FSC): Because CFSC requires matching funds, for each CFSC submission, we will use an existing funded project as the match. For the south end of Oakville Ridge Road, the match will be the funding we have for the north end. For the LAR that connects Mt. Veeder Road to Cavedale, we will use the Mt. Veeder Peak Road project.

PG&E funds: They have a vegetation management grant program with a May 31 deadline. Fuel reduction work must follow power lines. Will apply for 4 projects including Oakville Ridge Road (add to existing funding), and the extension of the Woodward LAR. We already have CEQA approval for both.

LAR1: Working on permitting

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT: (Greg Holquist)

Family Tree has now been paid for the 2018 Cal Fire work. They will start work at Enchanted Hills. Greg is evaluating some other tree companies to compare costs.

Neighbors in Need projects: no progress

TREASURER'S REPORT (Gary Green)

The checking account balance as of May 9, 2019 was \$34,371.22 and the money market savings balance was \$10,045.69. This does not reflect 2 checks recently received from Cal Fire and 2 other deposits (a \$1,000 donation and \$10 for an address sign). We will need a new treasurer before January 1, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Napa County policies related to defensible space: Jeff Enos expressed concern that the Napa County General Plan indicates a greater commitment to fire safety than actually happens. Joe Nordlinger said that this issue would be more appropriate to the Napa County CWPP process. He asked Jeff to tell Carol Rice that the MVFSC would like the county to be more active in this area.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:55 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 22, 9 am, Roger Provost's house, 5780 Dry Creek Road