



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, July 8, 2023

LOCATION: Gary Green's residence, 5410 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Gary Green, Jeff Enos, Roger Provost, Bob Clark, Margaret Woodard, Dan Woodard, Paul Woodward, Joanne Sutro, Carole Meredith, Jake Songer

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Fundraising (Joanne Sutro)

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the June 3, 2023 meeting were approved with one revision.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

MVFSC updates: Joe is continuing to work with Carol Rice on the new MVFSC CWPP that will include Oakville Ridge Road and the Rutherford areas. They will seek Firewise certification in July.

NCCF and Napa County funds: The Napa County Board of Supervisors approved an increase in funding from \$3 million to \$6 million, thanks in large part to a lot of community input. It would be better to educate along the way so that we don't need to mount a community campaign.

NCCF is working with county staff to build out a 10+ year CWPP. Hundreds of projects have been identified, the full cost of which would be around \$400 million. The working group includes the Napa County CEO, the Napa County Sheriff's office, the Napa County Fire Department, among others.

The county cannot be expected to provide \$6 to \$10 million a year, so another source of funds is needed. A post-mortem of the unsuccessful Measure L is underway to come up with a better ballot measure that would be more likely to pass. Marin County passed a measure that might serve as a model for us. They generate \$22 to \$25 million a year and have a formula that distributes funds back to jurisdictions.

Cal Fire Forest Health Grant (FHG) (Oakville Ridge Road, Veterans Home, Enchanted Hills): A kickoff meeting was held on July 6. In response to concerns, Enchanted Hills says that they will maintain their fuel reduction after the initial work is done.

Cal Fire Wildfire Protection Grant (WPG): This was funded at \$2.5 million. The main effort will be to continue to work north along the ridgeline at the Napa-Sonoma County border. Work will also be done along Highway 29 into Lake County.

Dry Creek Road powerline incident: The tree crew conducting fuel reduction along Lower Dry Creek Road caused a power outage. Work was stopped and will resume later with a different contractor.

PROJECT REPORTS

Napa County funds and Cal Fire funds (Jeff Enos, Project Manager): For the Old Ridge Road and Redwood Road projects, the August botanical survey will be the last required and then the projects can go out to bid.

More work is needed on Bald Mountain, but no more money is available.

At the Veterans Home, grading with bulldozers will start on 7/10. This work is separate from the vegetation management work.

For Lokoya roadside clearing, the bid has been awarded to Signature Tree.

For Timberhill, NCCFF is working with the city. A final vegetation survey will be conducted in August.

Roadside clearing is complete on Wall Road and is underway on Mt. Veeder Road and Upper Dry Creek Road. The work on Lower Dry Creek Road was terminated for cause. It may go out to bid again or may be given to Signature Tree.

Napa Valley Vintners funds: Regrading of existing dozer lines is being surveyed now.

Feinstein earmark (Forest Service): For Hogback Ridge, permissions are being obtained and surveys being conducted. The vegetation management work is more extensive than previously thought, in part because of tree regrowth.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) (Roger Provost):

Roger and Greg Holquist evaluated one of the Mount Veeder Road properties and estimated the cost of the work at \$3,600 to \$4,000. The owner wants different work done than that which MVFSC is proposing. Jeff Enos also expressed concern about a drop line rubbing against trees and proposed that drop lines should become part of all NIN evaluations.

Neon contact database (Joanne Sutro): Jazmin is updating the database with all the received landowner agreements and also with address corrections based on returned mail. The geographic data in the database needs improvement, for example all parcels that front on a county road should be identified.

Home Winemakers Classic: We have received \$23,000 in sponsorships and \$4,500 in in-kind donations (including \$4,000 from the Marriot in the form of room rental and catering). Auctions donations total \$28,000 so far (retail value). Raffle ticket sales are down from last year. Admission will be \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The MVFSC bank balance is \$77,121.21. The Home Winemakers Classic has a current balance of \$34,340.60.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Joanne Sutro proposed that we request money from Community Projects, specifically \$10,000 for Neighbors in Need.

Next Meeting: 9 am, August 26, 2023 at Joseph Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 am