



## MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Saturday, September 23, 2023

**LOCATION:** Roger Provost's residence, 5780 Dry Creek Road

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Nordlinger, Roger Provost, Jeff Enos, Paul Woodward, Bill Robertson, Joanne Sutro, Gary Green, Carole Meredith

**ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA:** Mission statement

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the August 26, 2023 meeting were approved with two changes.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):**

**MVFSC updates:** Joe is continuing to work with Carol Rice on the new MVFSC CWPP and on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise Community certification and hopes to have it done by the end of October.

**Community Projects:** Joanne Sutro is working on proposal to submit to Community Projects for \$20,000 to be designated for Neighbors in Need.

**NCFF and Napa County:** Joe Nordlinger is now the CEO of Napa Community Firewise Foundation. He and the NCFF working group are continuing to work with county staff to build out a 10+ year CWPP that can be taken to the Board of Supervisors. The goal is to build an "endowment" to sustain the long-term work.

A \$37.5 million Federal BRIC grant that was awarded to Napa County (with assistance from NCFF). This is a reimbursement grant so the county must spend the money and then receive reimbursement. The grant also requires that the county provide \$12.5 million in cost-sharing. The funds that will go to defensible space and infrastructure hardening also require property owner cost-sharing. It is important that the county get reimbursed promptly by the federal government for this work or they will not want to participate again in the future. The BRIC grant does not cover maintenance on fuel reduction projects.

### **PROJECT REPORTS**

#### **Vegetation Management and Fuel Reduction (Jeff Enos, Project Manager):**

**Roadside clearing:** Most work has been completed. Mt. Veeder Road below closure, lower Dry Creek Road, lower Redwood Road, and lower Partrick expanded are in

progress. Some areas near creeks must be skipped and a few other areas are being skipped because of limited funds.

**Veterans Home:** Vegetation management work has started.

**Fuel Breaks:** The third and last botanical surveys have been completed for the Old Ridge Road, Timberhill, and Partrick Rd to Redwood Rd Connector. Maintenance on the northern end of the Oakville Ridge Road fuel break is in progress. The Hogback Ridge fuel break project is still in the planning stages, with additional scouting, surveys and landowner permissions needed.

**Neighbors in Need (NIN) (Roger Provost):**

Roger has been unable to reach a Mount Veeder Road resident from whom an application was received. It is apparent that a lot of vegetation removal is needed.

Roger reported that NCCFF has recently been more responsive to his application for the cost-sharing program.

There are no other new applications. We should send out an email and also ask residents to refer their neighbors.

**Neon contact database (Joanne Sutro):** No update

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The MVFSC bank balance is \$71,001.36. The Home Winemakers Classic has a current balance of \$54,853.05.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mission statement:** Jeff Enos had previously expressed concern that the mission of MVFSC should be made more clear to the public. At the request of Joanne Sutro, Dan and Margaret Woodard reviewed our mission statement and suggest improvements. The new mission statement is "Reduce the risk of wildfire devastation through fuel reduction and community engagement."

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**Next Meeting:** 9 am, October 28, 2023 at Carole Meredith's house, 4967 Dry Creek Road

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:00 am