DATE: Saturday, August 24, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Greg Holquist, Carole Meredith, Gary Green, Bill Robertson, Roger Provost, Bob Clark, Jeff Enos, Paul Woodward, Matt McDonald (Cal Fire), Tom Moran (drone operator)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Website, statistics on small fire history

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the August 3, 2019 meeting were approved with two corrections

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation updates: The NCFF was awarded $100,000 from PG&E for various projects. And an NCFF grant proposal to CA FSC for project maintenance was funded.

Home Winemakers Classic (HWC): A post mortem meeting occurred. The HWC needs committee members.

Bookkeeping for grants: Donna Woodward and Gary Green have not yet met.

MVFSC trailer and log splitter: We need to sell the trailer. Joseph Nordlinger and Gary Green propose to buy the splitter.

501(c)(3): no progress

ACTIVE FUNDING

PG&E funds: Awarded $65,00 for the north end of the Oakville Ridge Road, to supplement the $95,000 in Cal Fire funding.

California Fire Safe Council (CA FSC): MVFSC was awarded $90,000 for the southern part of the Oakville Ridge Road.

LAR1: The plans are being submitted to the county under the name of the parcel owner.
PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORT: (Greg Holquist)

Current Projects: The Bald Mountain project is complete. We are 4 weeks into the Oakville Ridge Road project. We currently have 11 projects scheduled, including projects involving other Fire Safe Councils. Considering our limited time and resources, it would be helpful if these projects could be stretched out over time. Perhaps the other Fire Safe Councils should have their own project managers.

We are underfunded on most of these projects and our path forward is unclear. Should we finish a few of them and defer the rest until we can obtain more funds?

Neighbors in Need projects: Greg Holquist looked at the property at 3365 Mt. Veeder Road. It has been cleared so Greg is not sure what we would do. Perhaps remove some large strike trees that could fall on structures?

Mayacamas Mount Veeder Community Outreach Education Grant (MMVCOEG): (Jeff Enos)

Jeff said that a social media effort is needed to announce the startup of the program, with perhaps a monthly update. Gary Green is willing to post notices and updates on Nextdoor.

A community meeting to discuss the property evaluation program, along with general fire safety measures, will be held at Enchanted Hills on October 19. An organizer is needed. An email announcing the meeting should be sent out. Recipients must be determined and an email list established.

TREASURER’S REPORT (Gary Green)

The checking account balance as of July 31, 2019 was $28,796.67 and the money market savings balance was $10,048.28. The budget needs to be amended to include money under Events for the October 19 MMVCOEG meeting at Enchanted Hills.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Roger Provost has revised the MVFSC website. Carole Meredith will look it over before it goes live.

NEW BUSINESS:

History of small fires in the Mount Veeder neighborhood: not discussed

Drones for aerial surveys (Tom Moran): Tom operates a drone business (Rylan UAV) and can generate high resolution images that might be useful for property evaluations. One advantage is that the drone can photograph roof and gutter details that cannot be seen from the ground. A drone survey can also evaluate and quantify needed vegetation treatment. Tom estimates a cost of $200 to evaluate a single residential parcel. He charges $125/hour for imagery and $225/hour for full mapping. He acknowledged that a drone survey over a larger area, e.g. a proposed shaded fuel break, would be challenging because the operator must stay within 400 feet of the drone and maintain line of sight contact.
ADJOURNMENT: 12:35 pm

Next Meeting: Saturday, September 28, 9 am, Dry Creek – Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road