DATE: Saturday, October 26, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Greg Holquist, Carole Meredith, Roger Provost, Jeff Enos, Joanne Sutro, Paul Woodward, Charlotte Williams (Napa Vision 2050)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Speaking at Enchanted Hills holiday party

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 28, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes

Holistic Lane Management Seminar:
Charlotte Williams, the president of Napa Vision 2050, spoke about a day-long seminar to be presented by Napa Vision 2050 on “Holistic Land Management Regenerative Agriculture” on November 2 at Enchanted Hills Camp. She suggested that the use of managed domestic herds of grazing animals could be a means to reduce fire fuels and maintain healthy forests and grasslands. Discussion ensued about the challenges presented by the rugged topography of the Mount Veeder neighborhood and the difficulty of protecting grazing animals from mountain lions.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation updates: There was no NCFF board meeting in October. NCFF has received a $100,000 grant from PG&E (jointly with Ag Innovations) to establish the Calistoga Fire Safe Council and to develop a playbook for launching Fire Safe Councils (FSC’s) and connecting them to the countywide CWPP.

Future Cal Fire funding: After our last meeting, Joe met with Tom Knecht (Cal Fire Division Chief) and Jake Keown (Cal Fire Battalion Chief). It was concluded that we should not apply for Forest Health grants because they require large tracts of land and also greenhouse gas calculations. The gist of the meeting was that we should focus on getting projects done and that everything is fine with regard to their CEQA status.

For Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grants, we need to do more legwork in advance of requesting funds for projects. For example, we should write a planning grant for a large
project that combines several of our proposed individual projects. (The large combined project could be called the Nuns Complex.) We should get foresters out on the ground to see how the public roads, legacy fire roads, and private roads can be connected. The planning grant might involve a budget of around $200,000. The actual project work would probably cost 1 to 2 million dollars. Joe is working on this idea with Carol Rice and Greg Holquist.

The NCFF could develop another large project that stitches together projects from by the Atlas Peak, Silverado and Circle Oaks Fire Safe Councils. And yet another large project could encompass work in the Angwin and Deer Park area.

In future, we should not seek money from Cal Fire for projects until we have Cal Fire buy in. To facilitate this, Jake Keown (Cal Fire Battalion Chief) would like to attend our meetings. He can attend on Sundays but not on Saturdays. Almost all MVFSC board members can attend Sunday meetings.

**Neighbors in Need:** We will spend $1,500 at a residence in the 3300 block of Mt. Veeder Road to remove large strike trees that could threaten structures. A potential applicant on Lokoya Road needs help with a large amount of brush that has not been chipped because it is incorrectly stacked. It was suggested that an AmeriCorps crew might be able to stack it.

**PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORTS (Greg Holquist):**

**Bald Mountain:** The crew will go back on October 29 to finish the chipping with a track chipper. This will take 3 weeks and work will be finished by mid-November, at which point the project can be finalized.

**Oakville Ridge Road:** We were prevented from continuing to use Cal Fire funds for this project. So, using PG&E money, we will spend 3 weeks widening the project area but the steep slopes preclude going out very far. We will use California Fire Safe Council money to extend the Oakville Ridge Road project to the south. This will begin in early December and continue into January.

**Other projects:** Greg looked at 3 of 4 proposed Cal Fire projects with Jake Keown – lower Oakville Grade loop, Cuvaison driveway, and Woodward driveway (but not Mount Veeder Peak). Jake does not favor Limited Access Road projects. He proposes to repackage the money that was originally intended for the Oakville Grade Loop and the Woodward driveway and use it for the Old Ridge Road. He wants to keep the Cuvaison driveway project.

Family Tree, our main contractor, may not continue to work for us because of payment delays and increased costs to pay their employees because of recently passed legislation. Other tree companies could provide crews that aren’t union. It was also suggested that we could use non-professionals to work on maintenance projects, such as the Center for Land Management Resource Group.
Mayacamas Mount Veeder Community Outreach Education Grant (MMVCOEG) (Jeff Enos):

At the October 19 community meeting, we got 4 new requests for assessments and met a requirement of the grant. The team is ready to start assessments and has 11 to do.

TREASURER’S REPORT (Gary Green absent so no verbal report)

As of 10/9/19, the checking account balance was $34,677.76 and the savings account balance was $10,051.06.

OLD BUSINESS:

Future treasurer: If Donna Woodward takes the position as treasurer under our new 501c3 organization, she wants to get paid. A motion to engage Donna Woodward at $50/hour was approved.

501c3: Evangeline James reported that Kelly Wallace has set up the corporation and we have an Employer Identification Number (EIN), but the 501c3 application has not been submitted. Can we assign projects to the new entity? We are applying for grants with a December 4 application deadline, but the grants would not be funded until May. Perhaps we can say that our 501c3 status is pending. Evangeline James has agreed to try to expedite the 501c3 application process. Another question is whether we can accept donations before we have our non-profit status.

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT: 11:20 am

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 24, 9 am, Dry Creek – Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road