DATE: Sunday, January 19, 2020

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Ken Van Oeveren, Carole Meredith, Roger Provost, Bill Robertson, Jeff Enos, Paul Woodward, Bob Clark, Greg Holquist, Charly Yeye (guest), Jesus Gonzales (guest)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: goats, newsletter article

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the November 24, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation updates: Of $180,000 obtained ($90K from Napa County and $90K from California Fire Safe Council), $33,000 will be used for the MVFSC Lokoya Perimeter project. Angwin FSC got $35,000 and other FSC’s received less. The NCFF is trying to prioritize rather than just divide the dollars equally among the Fire Safe Councils.

Tracy Katelman, formerly the Executive Director for California Fire Safe Council, is now doing consulting. The NCFF may engage her as a consultant on funding strategy.

Budget finalization: MVFSC will operate with a transition budget until we become a 501c3. At that point we will have almost no money, only $33,000 for the Lokoya Perimeter plus some from Home Winemakers Classic and from Community Projects. In the existing budget, we need to make some changes in category numbers to reflect the reassignment of funds to different projects. New categories must be added for the new Oakville Ridge 2 project and the Nuns Canyon Fire Complex Planning Grant. Categories for general liability insurance (for directors and officers), the cost of the Dropbox account, legal and accounting services, and a miscellaneous ‘other’ category.

Bylaws: Evangeline James left in the possibility of paid directors, just as an option. The term of directors will be 2 years and limited to California. The paragraph about loans to buy houses was eliminated.
Board meetings: It was suggested that we return to meeting on Saturdays and that we hold less frequent meetings, perhaps quarterly in January, April, July and October. Thus the next meeting would be on the fourth Saturday in April.

GOATS FOR FUEL REDUCTION (Charly Yeye and Jesus Gonzales)
Charly Yeye and Jesus Gonzales have recently started a goat brush clearing business. They have completed a project at Chappellet Winery. They described the process of transporting the goats and controlling them with portable fencing. They would be secured in a horse trailer overnight. They charge $3,000 per acre and estimate that they could do 1 acre per day.

Transporting the goats to our less accessible sites like the Old Ridge Road would be a challenge. A further important consideration is that goats do not eat burned trees, so even if they were to reduce the brush between the ground and 9 feet high, in previously burned areas like the Old Ridge Road, a lot of fuel would remain in the form of dead wood, so a vegetation management contractor would have to follow up. Furthermore, many of the trees that are recovering from the 2017 fire are sprouting from the base and the goats would eat that new growth and hinder the recovery of the landscape.

A pilot project on Lokoya Road was proposed. This is a better site than some because there are fewer dead trees. A vegetation management company would be needed in addition to the goats. A motion was approved to spend up to $10,000 on a 2-acre pilot goat project on Lokoya Road.

PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORTS
Fuel reduction projects (Greg Holquists): Family Tree is no longer our contractor. We have no contractor right now. We have leads on 3 companies. Two are union employers (so very expensive because of legal requirements) and one is not. At PG&E, the gas department has taken over projects from the vegetation management department. Their contractors are working by time and materials, so progress is inefficient.

Bald Mountain: finished

Oakville Ridge Road: Payment was received from PG&E. Work has now stopped. We want to use the Cal Fire funds originally awarded for Oakville Grade Road project for the Oakville Ridge Road project, but Cal Fire has not yet reassigned the contract.

Other Cal Fire projects: Cal Fire has extended the contracts for the other projects (LAR 2, LAR 10 and Mt. Veeder Peak Road) but has not yet reassigned the LAR 2 contract to allow us to use the funds for Old Ridge Road maintenance.

Neighbors in Need: Peggy Aaron will approach the Lokoya Road owner with the accumulated brush about reducing fuel along their shared property line. For the Mt. Veeder Road property owners, the scope has been agreed upon but we have no crew to perform the work.

Mayacamas Mount Veeder Community Outreach Education Grant (MMVCOEG) (Jeff Enos): 33 assessments have been completed. 2 are pending. Each one takes 2 hours. We now need to encourage more to participate. We should contact those who
have said 'maybe'. And we can have a sign up at the Pancake Breakfast. The Mayacamas Fire Safe Council has only done about 9 assessments. Their community is generally resistant to this effort. Carole Meredith agreed to send Jeff's roadside clearing article to the community mailing list and to post it on Nextdoor.

**Home Winemakers’ Classic:** A meeting will be held on January 20.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** (Ken Van Oeveren)
As of 1/16/20, the checking account balance was $42,601.62 and the savings account balance was $10,056.20. Outstanding deposits are $88,249.60 and outstanding debits are $91,676.33 so the true balance is $49,231.09.

**OLD BUSINESS:**
Sale of log splitter and trailer: no progress

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:35 am

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, April 25, 9 am at Dry Creek Lokoya Fire Station