DATE: Sunday, November 24, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Greg Holquist, Gary Green, Carole Meredith, Roger Provost, Bill Robertson, Jeff Enos, Joanne Sutro, Paul Woodward, Cindy Kerson, Bob Clark, Evangeline James, Jake Keown (Cal Fire), Amanda Benton (Napa County RCD)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: website, newsletter article, holiday party, envelopes, budget

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the October 26, 2019 meeting were approved with no changes

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Joe Nordlinger):

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation updates: NCFF is seeking Cal Fire funding for 4 projects:
1. Maintenance fund. NCFF has $90,000 from California Fire Safe Council to engage Carol Rice to evaluate maintenance needs and build a training regimen.
2. Planning grant for Atlas Fire Complex
3. Planning grant for Nuns Fire Complex
4. Fuel reduction project for the Deer Park/Bell Canyon area

Neighbors in Need: The potential applicant on Lokoya Road continues to contact NCFF for help with a large amount of brush that has not been chipped because it is incorrectly stacked. Evangeline James will send her an email to let her know that MVFSC can help her.

DCL Board meeting: MVFSC will finish out under DCL the projects that were initially funded under DCL. We will not try to transfer financial responsibility from DCL to the new 501c3. Give that our 501c3 is still in process, we can currently pursue funding either through DCL or NCFF. We will finish out the LAR 10 and Mt. Veeder Peak Road projects. For the other 2 projects, we’ll reallocate the funds to other projects. The only grant we are pursuing right now is the Nuns Complex Planning Grant.
PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORTS (Greg Holquist):

Bald Mountain: The Cal Fire funded project is finished. Everything has been chipped and the big logs have been bucked up. One and a half days more is needed to bring down some oaks. 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. California Fire Safe Council funds will be used for one more week to extend the project further north.

Oakville Ridge Road: The project is only half completed because Tom Knecht stopped the work. PG&E money has been used to widen the fuel break to 35 to 40 feet. The issue is whether the objective is access/egress vs. a shaded fuel break. Jake Keown said that because parts of the Oakville Ridge Road are so steep, the project should focus on access/egress because the steepness would require that the project be much wider to be an effective fuel break. He further emphasized that for fuel breaks, there must be a maintenance plan.

Other projects: We will reassign the money originally intended for the Oakville Grade Road project to the Oakville Ridge Road. We will reassign the LAR 2 (Woodward driveway) money to Old Ridge Road maintenance. The LAR 10 (Cuvaison) and Mt. Veeder Peak Road projects will go forward as planned.

Nuns Complex Planning Grant (Cal Fire): This will encompass Mt. Veeder Road, Redwood Road, Partrick Road, the ridgelines and the Archer Taylor Preserve. The entire area will be treated as a complex. The planning will include a detailed analysis of costs and will endeavor to connect the county line ridge to the Mt. Veeder Peak Road project. Amanda Benton will provide assistance with CEQA approval. Cal Fire is enlisting Napa County RCD to help reduce the backlog for environmental review.

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

16 assessments have been completed. 10 are pending. Each one takes 2 hours. The Mayacamas Fire Safe Council is about a month behind. Their community is generally resistant to this effort because of privacy and trust issues.

The December 7 holiday party is an opportunity to satisfy a grant requirement by making a presentation and Joseph Nordlinger is willing to do this. It was decided not to offer a handout about the assessment project because most people would only leave it behind. There will be a signup sheet at the door.

Home Winemakers’ Classic: A meeting will be held on December 9 at Bob Clark’s house. Donation solicitation letters are going out.

TREASURER’S REPORT (Gary Green)

As of 11/8/19, the checking account balance was $151,929.15 and the savings account balance was $10,053.67. Outstanding checks that have not cleared total $109,088.30 so the true balance is $52,894.52.

MVFSC needs to establish a new Pay Pal account through which to receive online payments.
OLD BUSINESS:

Future treasurer: The new treasurer will only handle new funds coming through NCFF. Gary Green has purchased a new printer and laptop with a 4-year warranty for the new treasurer.

501c3: Evangeline James has the application and it has been signed by Joseph Nordlinger but it has not yet been submitted. She will try to do it by December 2, 2019. It will likely take 3 to 4 months to get approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Newsletter article: Jeff Enos is preparing an article on vegetation management along county roads for the upcoming newsletter.

Website updates: We need to remove the 5900 Dry Creek Road address. We need a new banner photo. The Rebuilding Code link should be retained and a link to the Home Winemakers’ Classic should be added. A project update was requested from Greg Holquist.

Log splitter and trailer: It was moved and approved that the splitter be sold for $600 to Paul Woodward, Cindy Kerson and Gary Green. The trailer will be posted for sale on Next Door.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:20 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 28, 9 am, Dry Creek—Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road rescheduled to January