

**LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
November 04, 2019**

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) convened in regular session at 6:32 p.m. on November 04, 2019 at the Susan River Fire Protection Office located at 705-145 Hwy 395 in Johnstonville. Officers present were Chair Lloyd Keefer, Managing Director Tom Esgate and Secretary/Treasurer Nicki Moroney.

- I. **Opening and Welcome:** Lloyd Keefer welcomed everyone and asked everyone to sign-in. He also asked that everyone introduce themselves. N. Moroney gave the Treasurer's Report.
- II. **Public Comment** – No comments.
- III. **Managing Director's Report** – Tom reported on the following:

Active Projects

SNC Diamond Mountain Treatment (Beaty) – Completed all treatments. In the process of doing the final measuring and plotting to close the project out by 12/31/19. Per K. Hoffman we should schedule a close out final site visit, T. Esgate suggested next week.

SNC Diamond Mountain USFS – Per T. Esgate this is our latest grant for primarily pile burning, thinning of plantations, aspen treatments and fencing. We can start pile burning weather permitting and when USFS gets the paperwork together. In the process of developing a contract for High Sierra Fire who will be burning the piles. They will possibly get started this year; they have three operating seasons to accomplish this.

CCI/FH Diamond Mountain – This is a combination of biomass thinning, handwork and timber sales. We started with the handwork this year and looks like we will have about 40-45% of the work done this year. We had a Pre-bid tour about a month ago for the timber sales. We are going to open the bids on November 15.

CCI/FP –

South Eagle Lake – The last few months we have focused on the community treatments in Lake Forest and mastication on SPI ground. We should finish tomorrow the handwork for this phase in Lake Forest. Masticators are back in on SPI.

Big Valley Mountain – A lot of work going on up there. Masticators working on SPI ground. There are masticators, biomass thinning and hand crews working in the Day Lassen Bench (DLB) area. We are just about ready to sign an agreement with the Forest Service, Hat Creek Ranger District that will allow us to do about 900 acres on forest service ground. That will be biomass thinning, mastication and 100 or so acres of prescribed burning. We've probably spent close to a third of the money of this project.

Clear Creek – Completed the community work with CalFire funds. In addition, we've received \$100,000 from PG&E to also do work within the community. All that's left to do is the fuel break on Indian Ole Road on SPI ground.

Piute WWUI – Same footprint as the South Eagle Lake (SEL) project. Work on the Piute drainage and Firewise in the Schools. We have probably spent about 80% of the funds and have until June of next year to complete.

Milford Title III – Maybe we can use their funds for the TPI project development.

Title III Report

CWPP – Working on the TPI now, writing a grant application. Still in the process of finalizing, need Plumas & Modoc reporting. Hopeful to finalize soon.

Firewise Communities –

Cal Fire GHG

South Eagle Lake – Treatments completed, in the closeout phase.

Black Mountain/PRCD – Should finish by the end of year.

DLB Shasta Title III – Doing a CWPP update that consists of a Firewise community assessment and action plan.

Thompson Peak Initiative – Per T. Esgate we are in the grant application phase. The next meeting will be next Thursday at the Janesville Fire Protection District office. We will be dialing in the final stages of the grant application.

Applications/New Potential Projects

- a. **NFWF SNC Diamond Mountain USFS** – Per T. Esgate we did file a grant request for paper with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for \$60,000 - \$70,000 with a million-dollar match.
- b. **SNC Capacity (TPI and Others)** – We've been notified that we will receive the funds. Per K. Hoffman should receive the funds by the end of November.

- c. **Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc. AIM (TPI)** – We filed this grant for capacity funds for \$50,000, working with Eileen to get CEQA clearance.
- d. **CCI/FP & FH** –
TPI - The LCFSC decided to only submit one application. The top priority is the TPI. The first year there was 200 million and last year there was only 40 million statewide. There seems to be unanimity within the fire service that the place with the greatest need in Lassen County right now is the Janesville/Milford quarter. The community had a petition drive and collected over 2,300 signatures in support of the project that will be submitted with the grant application. The grant application needs to be submitted by December 4, 2019.

IV. Agency Updates –

BLM – W. Johnson reported the dedication and naming of Karl Todd to the Smokey the Bear Fire Prevention Park. Per A. Mattos BLM is doing a 400-acre understory burn northwest of Eagle Lake tomorrow.

Cal Fire –A. Mattos reported they are still at peak fire season. There have been unprecedented winds of 80-100 mile hour winds from the Bay area to Ventura. They are fully staffed, but shorthanded. No pile burning yet not until there is more moisture. Shortage in crews. Working in conjunction with Caltrans on 89 on top of Fredonyer on a fire break. We had a project going on in Martin Ranch behind Chester where there were lots of masticating, we are waiting on pile burning. Closed down Eagle Lake Station, with the power outage we realized we couldn't keep it heated, it is now being run out of Westwood. The Westwood Station is being rebuild; one engine is at Westwood Fire the other is at Chester Fire.

SNC – Per K. Hoffman the next board meeting will be December 11 & 12 at the Highland Ranch in Childs Meadow and all are invited.

NE CA Fire Prevention – No report.

USFS – No report.

NRCS - No report.

Susan River FPD – Per H. Parker we had a team down in Downey Ville.

Janesville FPD – No report.

OES – Silas Rojas is the new OES Chief for Lassen County. He was born and raised here in Lassen County. Has worked for CalFire since 2004, was the Fire Capitan Specialist with the Prevention Bureau. The Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) has not affected us yet. Lassen County just received an allocation of about \$157,000 to use on preparation and planning for PSPS effects on green energy gensets, County working on a plan for the money.

SPI – Per W. Palmer quite in October. Evans went over to Diamond Mountain; they just came back. Biomass was all done by Holt Logging out of Westwood they covered 621 acres of plantation and 300 acres of wildland, for a total of 921 acres of biomass completed in the SEL fuels project area. All mastication was done by Evans Right of Way for a total of 915 acres. The total amount of acres that have been completed through the middle of October is 1836 acres. S. DeBonis reported Holt is working on the Clear Creek project along the Indian Ole Dam about 80 acres of biomass treatments. Then Holt will go to the SEL project. On the north side of the marina putting in a fuel break. During the red flag we were shut down. In Plumas County we are going to implement a fuel break the west side of Chester, below the road up to Stover Mountain, similar to the work you see on 36 heading to Susanville.

Beaty – No report.

Lassen County – No report.

Honey Lake Valley RCD – W. Johnson reported just wrapping up old business. They are going to have a get together later in March or April.

SIR – Per W. Johnson he will no longer be speaking for them. He did say this year's fire crew of 4-5 person crew beat production standards that were modified for a smaller crew what a 20-person crew could do as far as fuel treatments.

Shane Starr Represents Doug LaMalfa's Office – Congress hasn't been to productive lately, the Senate did come out with their appropriations for agriculture, there are some good increases in funding for forest health and fire prevention.

VI. Other – L. Keefer asked Gary Bridges a member of the public if he had any questions, G. Bridges did not but said he was excited with all the work being done. M. Shaffer reported there is a new fuels manager at Honey Lake Power his name is Steve Kieslowski. L. Keefer reminded everyone there is no meeting in December.

VII. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 06, 2020 at Susan River Fire Protection District office.

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.