

**LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 2025, 5:30PM**

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) convened in regular session at 5:40 pm on September 17, 2025, at the Susan River Fire Hall, Johnstonville, California. LFSC members present were Chairperson, Ruth Morentz; Vice Chairperson, Laurence Crabtree; Board Members, Kam Vento/Chevi Amrein/Deb Bumpus/Yvonne Bennett; Project Manager Kyle Herron and Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator, Tonya Smith.

**Opening and Welcome** – Ruth Morentz called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. Introductions of our featured guest speakers were announced.

Sign in – A sign in sheet was available for voluntary sign in.

**I. Guest Speakers: Yvonne Bennett**, LFSC Board Member & **Laura Blaul (via Zoom)**, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) gave a home hardening power point presentation. Handouts were provided to all in attendance including Ready, Set, Go!, Prepare your Home from Firewise.org, Landscaping Plant Guide, MWF Solutions Spring 2025 Edition and Metal Wall & Fence Solution Sample products were on display.

**II. Managing Director Report given by Kyle Herron**

**Active Projects**

**A. Kyle Herron** provided the LFSC Projects Overview to the attendees. Kyle stated there were no changes to August 2025 spreadsheet previously provided. Kyle highlighted the South Lassen Wildfire Recovery & dead tree removal efforts. The North Susanville WUI Fuels Treatment is paused in response to the fire season. There are still crews working on hand pile projects around the Bootsle Project up Janesville Grade.

**III. New Planned/Awarded Projects/Closed Projects – No updates to Report.**

**V. Agency Updates**

**NRCS- Anne Stephens** updated the attendees about a “Joint Chiefs” project in conjunction with the LNFS. Applications are currently being accepted through November 21, 2025, for an outreach project targeting private landowners on Janesville Grade. The goal is to allocate a one-million-dollar grant for projects to include protection of natural resources, wildlife and natural water source preservation.

**SIR – Scott Dixon** stated no updates to report. No current projects.

**BLM – Not Present**

**CalFire – Adam Mattos** introduced his Team including **Robbie Whitchurch, Kasey Criss & Prairie Burt**. Adam gave updates on the planned 400-acre fuel burn in Bieber, California. A total of 283 acres were completed this afternoon. There is a controlled burn scheduled next week, approximately 1900 acre at Ash Creek Wildlife Refuge located five miles Northeast of Bieber. CalFire was able to assist with a private landowner 400 acre controlled burn this week at Wemple’s Ranch on Hwy 36 in eastern Lassen County. Adam stated we are still at peak fire season and expected to remain through December 8, 2025. CalFire remains fully staffed. Adam Mattos commended SPI for their collaborative efforts including installations of accessible water sources that can be used in the event of a fire.

**SNC – Not Present**

**USFS – LNF Bobette Jones** updated on active forest management projects including responding to a lot of lightning strike ignitions on the LNF. The LNF’s current projects include; Post Fire Dixie Fire Recovery, Timber sales, collaboration with SPI on fuels reduction around Eagle Lake and Hat Creek, and active burn plans and prescription burning when the opportunity is safely presented. Recreation updates included campground closures scheduled right after the Columbus/Indigenous People holiday in October. The USFS is still in a hiring freeze, but there have been some lateral positions filled on the Lassen. There is a Partnership meeting being planned for the end of October and the specifics will be determined and posted later. **PNF Mike Rahe** gave updated staffing report including a permanent Forest Supervisor hired, Laura Schweitzer. The current project updates included the Eastside Communities Project, Tahoe Forest Project and Post Fire Recovery in the Mt. Huff and Beckwourth areas. The PNF has crews working on the lightning strike fires noting Stage II conditions. Mike encouraged the attendees to give wildlife their space while recreating in the forest and advised there have been unsightly dumping around the forest. The recreation areas are scheduled to close for the season the end of October 2025.

**OES Lassen County – Not Present**

**SPI – Steve Debonis** stated SPI is working on the Bridge Project to develop access to a sustainable water supply off Hwy 44. There will ultimately be a helicopter dip sight and a safe staging area with a fuel break completed in a few weeks.

**Honey Lake Power – Not Present.**

**Lassen County – Not Present**

**Honey Lake Valley RCD – Not Present.**

**American Red Cross – Not Present**

**Firewise Communities –Ruth Morentz** of Day Lassen Bench Firewise stated the deadline to turn in the Firewise community hours report is November 21, 2025. LFSC is a resource for the Firewise volunteers.

**Golden State Natural Resources – Laurence Crabtree, GSNR Consultant** gave project updates. The USFS awarded a 3.5 million dollar grant to move existing log decks. The project encompasses all California National Forests. The goal is to get the fuels products from the forest to the power plants.

**VI. Other – None Noted**

**VII. Public Comment/Questions – None noted.**

**VIII. Next meeting – October 15, 2025.** Deer Creek Resources is scheduled to give a presentation.

**IX. Adjournment of Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM**

*Chevi R. Amrein*

I, Chevi Amrein, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors, Lassen Fire Safe Council, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full true, and correct copy of the minutes.