

**LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 21, 2024, 5:30PM**

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) convened in regular session at 5:30 pm on February 21, 2024, at the Susan River Fire Hall, Johnstonville. LFSC members present were: Acting Board Chair Laurence Crabtree; Managing Director Cade Mohler; Projects Coordinator, Kyle Herron; Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator, Hailey Park; Board Members, Kam Vento and Secretary/Treasurer Chevi Amrein.

- I. **Opening and Welcome** – Acting Chair Laurence Crabtree called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm  
Sign-in – A sign-in sheet was passed around for voluntary sign-in.
- II. **Managing Director Report given by Cade Mohler**  
**Active Projects**
  - A. Managing Director Cade Mohler welcomed the multi-agencies present and gave an overview of the LFSC current projects and distributed copies of the active projects spreadsheets.
  - B. Overview of LFSC project implementation (see attachment with the minutes) of all project updates. Cade Mohler introduced the LFSC Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator Hailey Park to give updates on the Defensible Space Assistance Grant. Hailey stated there are currently 190 residents signed up with 22 residential inspections already completed in the Westwood area. Hailey stated there is still opportunities for residents to sign up on the website or by personally contacting her at the LFSC office on Main Street in Susanville. The work will begin once the snow melts.
- III. **Closed Out Grants** – See the spreadsheet for a detailed overview.
- IV. **New Planned/Awarded Projects** – Cade updated on three Cal Fire climate investment grant applications already submitted, totaling 12.5 million dollars. The South Lassen Wildfire Recovery Project totaling 6.5 million dollars. This grant encompasses reforestation of non-industrial, private timber land loss as a result of the “Sheep” and “Dixie” fires. The second grant is the North Susanville WUI Treatments totaling 3 million dollars. This is in collaboration with several stakeholders including the City of Susanville and Lassen County. This encompasses the areas of Susan Ranch to Lake Forrest. The final application is for hazard tree removal, biomass fuels treatment, mastication, and herbicide in the LNF/ Eagle Lake Ranger District to remove dead and dying trees. This encompasses approximately 29 miles of hazard trees adjacent to the roads between Westwood and Susanville. Cade concluded all grants have been successfully submitted and LFSC is awaiting a response from Cal Fire.
- V. **Agency Updates**
  - BLM – Alton Pickup** updated he’s moving on to Utah with a new career opportunity and introduced Kory Bowser as the new contact. Kory is currently BLM stationed at Eagle Lake.
  - CalFire – Adam Mattos** informed the attendees about current interview panels to hire several positions at Devil’s Garden Conservation Camp. Adam introduced and welcomed new Cal Fire staff Joe Walton who is currently assigned to Westwood and Eagle Lake Districts and Unit Forester, Ivan Houser. Adam stated Cal Fire is currently working on ranking eleven grants within his unit. Adam stated he is pleased to announce they were able to hire Jeff Olson as the Forest Inspector in Modoc County. The position had been vacant for several years.
  - SNC** – Not present
  - NE CA Fire Prevention** – Not present
  - USFS** – Plumas: **Mike Ray** updated on the “Protect and Recovery Fuels Reduction Project” and stated they are currently working on wildfire surveys. Mike stated he was proud of the seven thousand acres of completed fuel reduction and successful burns in Plumas County. He is currently working on reforestation and salvage of the “Sugar Fire” project. **USFS Lassen: Bobette Jones** introduced herself as the new Eagle Lake District Ranger. She gave updates on current projects including work on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Bobette indicated a current project at Harvey Valley is out for scoping in April. She is currently evaluating several burn plans to determine future projects. Hiring and training is currently underway. Another project is developing a five-year plan for forest health and resiliency due in Spring 2024. Bobette stated she recently met with the Susanville Indian Rancheria Fire staff to coordinate prescribed burning operations. Stephaney Cox was introduced as the new LNF Coordinator. The LNF will host two open houses per year in every unit. It was announced Eagle Lake District will host their meeting on March 29, 2024 to allow residents to meet staff and discuss projects.

**USFS Lassen: Stephaney Cox** updated about the recently held “Partnership Symposium”. It was organized for industry state and local partners. The information will be published in the next USFS newsletter due out next week. The Spring 2024 Partnership Symposium will be a virtual conference on April 16, 2024.

**Susan River FPD** – Not present

**OES Lassen County** – Not present

**SPI –James Haynes-Petty** reported they are not working on many projects due to the winter weather and are gearing up for Spring and Summer.

**Honey Lake Power – Mark Shaffer** introduced himself as the new HLP Manager.

**Beaty** – Not present

**Lassen County – Lassen County Supervisor Aaron Albaugh** introduced the New Lassen County Sheriff, John McGarva. Aaron encouraged the attendees to interact during these meetings as it is a great opportunity for Lassen County to have the LFSC as a resource. Supervisor Tom Neely had nothing to report.

**Honey Lake Valley RCD – William Johnson** stated he has been approved for two theatre presentations of the “Elemental Re-Envisioning Fire” film. William stated the film is an awesome resource and captures some real-life footage of the “Camp” fire and “Dixie” Fire. He is looking for partnerships to be able to include food and other resources for the event. William updated on the Special Weed Action Team (SWAT) He envisions the project to be in cooperation with multiple agencies to mitigate invasive species around our counties.

**SIR –Audie Noneo**, SIR Fire Chief. SIR is currently working with the USFS for a 2024 burn plan for the upper rancheria. Audie anticipates hiring the SIR fire crew back to work in April 2024. The hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) training is scheduled for April 29, 2024, in Greenville, California.

**American Red Cross – Dwayne Teaffe** updated about the “Sound the Alarm” event held in Janesville last week. The American Red Cross gave out 24 smoke detectors to residents. The next event is scheduled in Westwood on the last Saturday in May 2024. Dwayne stated they have plans for several youth presentations “Be Red Cross Ready” in the future.

**Golden State Natural Resources** – See Below

**Firewise Communities** –Orie Carden Doyel Firewise stated the green waste dumpsters were placed at the community church in Doyle and they are a great success. She is hoping to have them again in the fall when the residence starts to do property cleanup.

- VI. Other –Terrance Rodgers** of Golden State Natural Resources (GSRN) an affiliate of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) gave a presentation about the GSRN approach to the urgent issues surrounding catastrophic fires from overgrown and under-managed forests. Their proposal and mission is to create forest resiliency projects to procure and process biomass produced as part of forest health initiatives into a pelletized fuel source for use in renewable energy generation overseas, as a replacement fossil fuel as opposed to coal. In a nutshell, to be able to produce industrial-grade pellets to ship to Japan the United Kingdom. They are proposing to develop two pellet processing facilities, one in Lassen County (Nubeiber) and Tuolumne County (Jamestown). The finished product would then be shipped by rail to Port of Stockton. The project has a 20-year Master Stewardship Agreement with the USFS for all of California’s 18 national forests. The project is currently under extensive environmental impact reviews and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. (See attached handout)
- VII. Public Comment/Questions** – Laurence Crabtree thanked the LFSC staff for their excellence and public service. Sheriff McGarva introduced himself and thanked the LFSC for their work in the community.
- VIII. Next meeting** – March 20, 2024, in Susanville
- IX. Adjournment of Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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.