

**LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**August 20, 2025, 5:30PM**

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) convened in regular session at 5:40 pm on August 20, 2025, at the Susan River Fire Hall, Johnstonville, California. The LFSC members present were Chairperson, Ruth Morentz; Vice Chairperson, Laurence Crabtree; Board Members, Kam Vento/Chevi Amrein; Managing Director Cade Mohler; 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 the board members and LFSC staff were announced.

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

**I. Managing Director Report given by Cade Mohler**

**Active Projects**

**A. Cade Mohler** provided the LFSC Projects Overview to the attendees (see attachments with the minutes). The overview included a spreadsheet and LFSC, Inc Project. Active Projects, Closed Out Projects, New Planned/Awarded Overview. Cade highlighted the North Susanville WUI Fuels Treatment Project which encompasses a 29-mile fuel break from Lake Forest to Paiute Lane in Susanville. The Project is currently paused, due to high fire danger and will resume in late Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. The project is currently under budget; we may assess more treatment areas.

**II. Closed Out Grants** – Refer to spreadsheet for detailed overview.

**III. New Planned/Awarded Projects** – Refer to spreadsheet for detailed overview. Cade introduced Tonya Smith, Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator. LFSC has a desire to build on the previous success of the community defensible space grant. The program focused on disadvantaged communities and assisted with dead/dying hazard tree removal for applicants in Lassen County including, senior, retired military, and disabled community members. Cade emphasized LFSC is a community resource for wildfire mitigation. The LFSC team recently applied for 6 new grants and are awaiting award announcements. Grants covered areas in Lassen, Tehama and Shasta counties.

**V. Agency Updates**

**NRCS- Sarah Leal**, introduced herself and updated on current projects surrounding the joint chief's allocation program. The USDA NRCS is expecting a 2-million-dollar grant award for their on-going forest health programs.

**SIR – Scott Dixon** gave thanks to the responding agencies on the two recent SIR reservation fires. Updates on fire crew staffing. They could not hire crews due to lack of funding and supervision of fire crews.

**BLM – Kory Bowser** gave project updates including the Horse Lake and Middle Creek progress. The fire suppression staffing is up significantly; however, they are running at only 50% of support staffing levels. The staffing levels hinder some progress. Kory stated they have dozers up and running and are looking for dirt removal projects. **James Hamilton** gave fire prevention updates and noted stage II fire restrictions remain in effect. Gave caution for the impending lightning event anticipated this weekend.

**CalFire – Adam Mattos** stated the fires on at the Susanville Rancheria are under investigation for arson. The fire engulfed 244 acres with the loss of zero structures. Adam commended the quick collaborative and efficient response. CalFire is fully staffed and prepared for the 2025 fire season. CalFire sent a crew to assist the state of Oregon with wildfire suppression efforts. There is a lightning event anticipated for this weekend, and the crews will be standing by ready to respond.

**SNC – Not Present**

**USFS – Rick Hopson**, gave thanks for the collaboration on the rancheria fires. Rick gave updates on projects in the works, including work in Lassen, Plumas, Butte & Tehama counties, as well as Dixie Fire Recovery efforts. USFS is working collaboratively with SPI on fuel breaks continuing Hwy44. There is continuation on a Master Stewardship Program in collaboration with Collins Pine. Timber sales remain a priority. Stephanie Cox gave updates on Bizz Johnson Trail is open again after the rockslide clean-up efforts completed and RAC projects.

**OES Lassen County – Not Present**

**SPI – Not Present**

**Honey Lake Power – Mark Shaffer** stated the plant is running well. The plant continues to look for fuel sources.

**Lassen County – Not Present**

**Honey Lake Valley RCD – Catherine Wooster** stated they are continuing work on projects with private landowners. Green tree and seed collection remain a priority.

**American Red Cross – Not Present**

**Firewise Communities – Kam Vento (Janesville)**, nothing to report. **Ruth Morentz (Day Lassen Bench)** is working on the deadlines for CWPP due in November. **Jacquie Cordova (Westwood)** Jacquie reported the Westwood Farmers Market is still this Friday evening. **Deborah Triplett & Orie Carden (Doyle)** gave updates on their goal to assist seniors for green waste cleanup. They are looking for volunteers who can do work and bring equipment, including trimmers. Their goal is to get work completed at the Doyle post office. Doyle days was well attended.

**Golden State Natural Resources – Laurence Crabtree** gave project updates. The company is pivoting its original mission due to EIR issues. Ultimately the goal of GSNR is to make the forest more resilient to wildfires and support employment opportunities in rural communities.

- VI. Other** – Recognition and appreciation was given to LFSC for its collaboration with Hulsman Ranch.
- VII. Public Comment/Questions** – Tabor Teachout, Biochar Coalition presented his current project information.
- VIII. Next meeting** – September 17, 2025.
- IX. Adjournment of Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 6:55 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.