

LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023 5:30 PM

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) convened in regular session at 5:30 pm on November 15, 2023, at the Susan River Fire Hall, Johnstonville. LFSC members present were Board Chair Ruth Morentz; Managing Director Cade Mohler; Projects Coordinator Kyle Herron; Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator Hailey Hanna and Board Members Kam Vento, Bob Andrews and Secretary/Treasurer Chevi Amrein.

- I. **Opening and Welcome** – Chair Ruth Morentz called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
Sign-in – A sign-in sheet was passed around for voluntary sign-in
Board members and all attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Managing Director Report given by Cade Mohler**
Active Projects
A. Managing Director Cade Mohler provided the LFSC Projects Overview to the attendees (please see attachment with the Minutes) of all project updates.
- III. **Closed Out Grants** – See spreadsheet for a detailed overview. Cade Mohler explained the FEMA Hog & Sheep Restoration grant status as follows: CAL OES advised LFSC to withdraw this grant based on the denial of biomass as a cost match and the requirement of a cash match, which made the feasibility of the project unlikely. LFSC is currently looking for other options.
- IV. **New Planned/Awarded Projects** – Hailey Hanna provided an overview of the new defensible space grant and there was a question-and-answer period regarding this grant. There has been a lot of community interest as evidenced by approximately 80 sign-ups. There have been 20 completed assessments in the Westwood area. The defensible space contractor bid closes in two days.
- V. **Agency Updates**
BLM – Not Present
CalFire – Not present
SNC – Not present
NE CA Fire Prevention – Not present
USFS – Dan Varney and Leland Ratcliff with Eagle Lake Ranger District reported they completed a 350 acre burn today. The Baxter Creek Road Project is their next scheduled project. The Whaleback project completed a 220-acre burn. There are gravel (stacked, burn) piles on A1 which are currently too wet to burn. Mike Rohe from the Plumas stated they accomplished large-scale burning near Cromberg. The Plumas currently has limited access to continue burn projects due to staffing issues including layoffs at the end of the fire season. The Plumas may be able to use contract services for reforestation around Portola, Quincy, and Graeagle. Deb Bumpas of the Lassen stated nothing to report.
Susan River FPD – Not present
OES Lassen County – Not present
SPI – Mr. James Haynes-Petty reported they have completed the mastication fuel break in Clear Creek. They are looking forward to collaborating with Cal Trans to complete projects on Hwy 44.
Honey Lake Power – Not present
Beaty – Not present
Lassen County – Tom Neely, Lassen County District 3 Supervisor stated he has been fielding calls about hazard tree removal requests and homeowners fire insurance issues.
Honey Lake Valley RCD – Not Present
SIR – Not present
American Red Cross – Duane Taaffe stated his organization has responded to four house fires recently. Duane encouraged the attendees to “clean your flu”. Also informed the attendees there is only a two-week window after an incident where community members can apply for assistance.
Golden State Natural Resources – Not Present.
Firewise Communities – Ruth Morentz stated Day-Lassen has completed their renewal. Hailey Hanna is working diligently with Janesville to complete their renewal.
- VI. **Other** - Bill Jacks of Terra Fuego gave a passionate presentation on why prescribed burns are critical to managing our forest resources and reducing the catastrophic risk from wildfires. He introduced himself as a fifth generation, Plumas County Forrester. He started Terra Fuego in 2010 as a 501(c) 3. Bill stated his organizational beliefs and wants to collaborate on a “prescribed fire policy” on both private and forest lands.
- VII. **Public Comment/Questions** – Phil Finkle private landowner had follow-up questions on the FEMA Hog & Sheep Fire Grant status. He requested a three-month periodic follow-up from the LFSC.
- VIII. **Next meeting** – January 17, 2024, in Susanville
- IX. **Adjournment of Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm

Chevi 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.