

**LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 17, 2024 5:30PM**

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) opened the public General Meeting at 5:35 pm on April 17, 2024 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, Laurence Crabtree, and Chevi Amrein.

- I. **Opening and Welcome** – Chair Ruth Morentz called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Ruth explained the Community Fund gifts for the Lassen County Volunteer Fire Departments and the Lassen County Firewise Communities (See attachments with minutes). LFSC would like to receive photos and emails to record how the monies were used in order to plan future community fund contributions.  
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 provided the LFSC Projects Overview to the attendees (see attachment with the minutes) of all project updates.
  - B. Cade Mohler presented an impressive PowerPoint display of the recently completed Thompson Peak Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Treatment Project. A brief history of the project inception was provided, including the background and partnerships. The project was formed in June of 2019 in collaboration with Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, Cal Fire, Lassen County, U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.
  - C. Cade Mohler introduced the LFSC Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator Hailey Park to give updates on the Defensible Space Assistance Grant. 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. There are currently 206 residents signed up for the program. This program is designed to benefit disadvantaged families with low income; seniors; veterans; and those residing in high fire zones. The work began this week in Pine Town. In collaboration with High Sierra Fire Inc., they have successfully completed fire mitigation work on six properties in Pine Town and Westwood.
  
- III. **Closed Out Grants** – See the spreadsheet for a detailed overview.
  
- IV. **New Planned/Awarded Projects** – (see attachment with the minutes): LFSC is still awaiting a response from CalFire for the status of the grants applied for. The Sugar Fire project in Plumas County is no longer being considered for this year but remains on our radar.
  
- V. **Agency Updates**
  - BLM** – **Kory Bowser** gave an update on staffing. BLM has purchased a new fire dozer. Current projects include fire mitigation along the Susan River Corridor along the Bizz Johnson Trail.
  - CalFire** – Not Present
  - SNC** – Kristy Hoffman introduced herself as the new agency representative. There are no projects currently happening due to an unsettled budget. She expects to release a new strategic plan in June of 2024. Kristy referred the audience to their website for future updates.
  - NE CA Fire Prevention** – Not present
  - USFS** – **Bobette Jones** with Eagle Lake Ranger District reported they are prepping for the upcoming fire season. Updates were given on the completed reforestation and planting in the Hog Fire and Whale Back Fire burn scars. There are also some budget shortfalls for their district. The recreational side of Eagle Lake District is setting up the boat docks for the season as the campgrounds are scheduled to open on May 15, 2024. Bobette gave a shout-out to **Stephaney Cox** for the success of the Partnership Symposium. The symposium was a great success with many partner agencies and was well attended.

**Susan River FPD** – Not present

**OES Lassen County** – Not present

**SPI** – **James Haynes-Petty** reported they have planted over 400,000 trees so far this year and more planting is planned including the whole West side of Lake Almanor which will be planted this year by helicopter. SPI is also working on some salvage logging projects in the counties.

**Honey Lake Power** – **Mark Shaffer** stated the plant is running well and they are accepting approximately 30 loads per day. Mark stated, ideally, they would like to receive 50-60 loads per day. Then power plant burns approximately 45 loads per day. The plant will be down for one week for scheduled maintenance, but will still be accepting fuel loads.

**Beaty** – Not present

**Lassen County** – Not present

**Honey Lake Valley RCD** – **William Johnson** was present and stated they are planting approximately 12,000 trees in collaboration with the LFSC staff member Kyle Herron.

**SIR** – Not present

**American Red Cross** – Not Present

**Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA**– **Anne Stephens** updated on staffing issues. They have received some funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and are utilizing those funds to budget for staff. The Plumas County Coordinator of NRCS Ben McNally is also dealing with staffing deficiencies.

**Firewise Communities** – **Orie Carden** of Doyle Fire Wise, stated they are working on a future project for a community clean-up day. She stated the green waste dumpster program was a great success for the community and they will be offering the service again. **Ruth Morentz** updated the attendees on the Community Fund Committee and LFSC Board's decision to gift monies to the Lassen County Volunteer Fire Departments and the Firewise Communities. Specifically, each Volunteer Fire Department will receive a gift of \$2,000.00 and Firewise will receive gift cards in the amount of \$500.00 to assist with their agency's current needs and/or fire season preparedness. LFSC is looking forward to being present and assisting when requested for any community events. (See LFSC Attending Events schedule 2024 attached with minutes)

- VI. **Other** – LFSC is scheduling the May 2024 General Meeting at the Westwood Community Center and will post the information on the website.
- VII. **Public Comment/Questions** –
- VIII. **Next meeting** – May 15, 2024, at the Westwood Community Center. Refreshments will be served.
- IX. **Adjournment of Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 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.