**LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC. (LCFSC)**

**LCFSC DIAMOND MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE**

**WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Monday, July 6, 2015

5:30 PM

Susan River Fire Protection District

705-145 Hwy 395, Johnstonville, California

The LCFSC Diamond Mountain Initiative meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm on July 6, 2015 at the Susan River Fire Protection District Office, 705-145 Hwy 395, Johnstonville, California. Attendees were Don Hansen, Lorraine Forester-Hansen, Ryan Hilburn, Matt Boisseau, Mark Shaffer, Terre Pearson-Ramirez, Bobette Jones, Hugh Parker, Carol Keefer, Tony Shaw, Lloyd Keefer, Tom Esgate, and Cathy Dirden.

1. Welcome and Introductions: LCFSC Managing Director Tom Esgate opened the meeting and welcomed all.
2. Diamond Mountain Grant

Tom stated the CAFSC awarded LCFSC a 2 year grant award of $200,000 for the first DMI grant for work on private land. He feels it was primarily because of the DMI collaborative effort. To achieve match biomass or Cal Fire crew work is needed. Cal Fire crew work could be done on Beaty ground or on private land along the Motorway. Tom will provide a map covering more area than required. There will be more opportunities with SNC and WWUI later on. The next step is to complete the grant paperwork. Tom and Ryan/Beaty will meet to discuss.

1. SNC RFP/Projects – Tom met with Lynn Campbell/SNC and others and learned there are multiple opportunities to apply for implementation funds including, possibly, in 2018 and 2019. Terri and Bobette were to work on a timeline working from 2017 forward. Lynn wants the DMI group to be successful.

USFS NEPA Timeline – Bobette stated the NEPA timeline was not achievable if the environmental specialist (Eileen Carey) is not available. Tom stated he has a meeting scheduled with David Hays in the morning; and feels the schedule is achievable since we now have multiple opportunities to ask for more money. The group discussed the Tier I and II projects and how priorities are set. The District no longer has a say, it’s decided higher up. Right now DMI is on Tier II; the number of days to complete the projects on Tier I can even be achievable at this point. She stated the community needs to be behind the push. Teri stated the projects can be multi-faceted and utilize different funding streams. Blow-down is an example of how a priority can be moved immediately to Tier I. The group discussed how items can be moved to a faster track. Mark Shaffer offered to attend the David Hayes meeting with Tom. Most of the NEPA still needs to be hashed out. Tom offered approaching with the need for a firm commitment in order to deliver on grant requirements, the application is due in September. The Forest leadership team decides which projects get moved up, and Dave Hays has final say. The top 3 priorities are governed by the settlement money, collaborative forest land grants, and salvage; then restoration which is what DMI is classified. There may be an opportunity to use settlement funds for outside assistance. The concern for the Forest is having seasonal fires changing priorities. Bobette suggested having the west side analysis as Tier I, which could ensure they get the proposed action together then contract out assistance. Tom stated this is what’s needed for him to lay out the budget. The CWPP is also an important part; the area is in the WUI and is considered a top priority. Tony Shaw stated at the Board of Supervisors level we can put the pressure on the Forest. Terri suggested giving Eileen the directive to produce the document needed. Tom stated she would be the ‘assembler’ of the product and would be the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Leader.

Private CEQA – Tom stated Lynn/SNC suggested doing companion projects to the Forest project as a NEPA/CEQA private landowner project. They could cover other needs. Tom will work with Ryan/Beaty to see what they can come up with.

1. USFS NEPA Timelines – Basically covered above
2. USFS – Babette stated they cannot go onto other lands, but can do hand thinning areas along the Motorway.
3. Review of Updated Map – Karl not available for an update
4. Treatment Funding Discussion

Phase I - LCFSC was funded, Honey Lake Valley’s project was not.

Phase II – Looking for RFP for the WWUI due in August; SNC potential also discussed earlier; Green House Gas and SRA funding should come later in the year.

1. Other – Don stated a discussion with Ryan would be to see what can be done and getting bids; THPs and pertinent roads for access. There is a Gold Hill timber sale of over a thousand acres. There are other small properties of 40 acres. LCFSC may be able to request SNC implementation funds on the Beaty managed property. Bobette explained the egress/ingress is intended to open up the Motorway to make it safe for those involved in suppress activities, etc. such as a shaded safety zone. Tom stated he would need help from USFS to assist with the budget for the grant.
2. Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3rd at 5:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.