

LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2024, 5:50PM

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) opened the public General Meeting at 5:50 pm on August 21, 2024, at the Susan River Fire Hall, Johnstonville. LFSC members present were Managing Director, Cade Mohler; Project's Coordinator, Kyle Herron; Hailey Park, Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator; Board Chair, Ruth Morentz; Board Members Laurence Crabtree, Janet Sanderson, Kam Vento, Yvonne Bennett and Chevi Amrein.

I. Opening and Welcome – Chair Ruth Morentz called the meeting to order at 5:50 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 provided LFSC Active Projects Overview Spreadsheet. Cade presented a mapping power point detailing every project's overview and area. (see map and attachment with the minutes).

III. Closed Out Grants – Hog & Sheep Fire Restoration Project is estimated to be completed by November 15, 2024. The Bootsole-SNC Grant has been extended to January 2028 to leverage more treatments. See spreadsheet for detailed overview.

New Planned/Awarded Projects – Cade detailed the newly awarded grants including the South Lassen Wildfire Recovery Project, North Susanville WUI Fuel Treatments and the Lassen National Forest Dixie Fire Hazard Tree Project. In total for 2024, LFSC has been awarded approximately 12.5 million dollars in CalFire grants. The spreadsheet details additional potential and proposed projects still pending determinations. (attachment)

IV. Agency Updates

Honey Lake Valley RCD – William Johnson was present and gave updates on the Stockdale Fire Northeast of Ravendale, California. Bill stated the winds and terrain were challenging the efforts around the Horse Lake area to Grasshopper. The grass fuel loads are problematic in the area.

CalFire – Glenn Schall and Joe Walton were present. Joe gave updates on the local fires including the Gold Mountain Fire and the Park Fire. Joe stated the first 60 hours of the Park Fire were the most devastating. Joe stated there were some notable fuel breaks that benefited the firefighting efforts along the Park Fire map. Glenn stated the next fuel burning project will be in Susanville, around the old mill, now that the extensive trash cleaning project is completed. They will do a controlled burn of approximately 200 acres. Other future projects include burning fuel piles along Hwy 36 and Hwy 44.

SNC – Kristy Hoffman is the agency representative from the Quincy office. She stated she has been fielding calls from Butte County. Kristy stated they have an agency meeting scheduled in Shasta City on September 4-5, 2024. There are no projects currently happening due to an unsettled budget.

USFS – Bobette Jones with Eagle Lake Ranger District reported they have been busy with the Park Fire in Butte County. The USFS is starting post-fire assessments. They have staffing deficits. They are only at 47% staffing outside of the fire division. Her agency is working on future timber sales. Bobette gave updates on the reforestation projects and the prescribed burns on County Road A21 and Hwy 44. There is a new acting Forest Supervisor on the Lassen, Tara Jones. Bobette stated they are currently monitoring the bacteria levels in Eagle Lake and grazing is still permitted. **Mike Rainey** gave agency updates for the Plumas. Mike gave Kudos to CalFire for their efforts on the Gold Fire, which burned near Graeagle, California. Mike stated the fuel treatments were very beneficial in those areas, and they work! Mike updated on the Mt. Huff and Cradle Valley Reforestation projects, which encompassed over 1000 acres on the Plumas National Forest. Future projects include the "Community Protect Project" which are happening in Portola, LaPorte and Cromberg.

SPI – James Haynes-Petty presented a map of current SPI projects. SPI has accomplished some major planting in the counties totaling 2.4 million trees in 2024. SPI is gearing up for more in 2025. James stated Mark Pustejovsky recently retired and the new reforestation staff member is person is Mark Pritchard. James gave updates on the County Road A21 salvage project and stated SPI is ready to log the Park Fire.

Honey Lake Power – Mark Shaffer stated the plant is running well and they are accepting approximately 80 loads per day at the plant. Mark stated they are building a winter stockpile including fuel from the Dyer Mountain Project.

Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA– Anne Stephens and **Jenna Ganoung** were present. They are currently prepping for the joint chiefs meeting next month. NRCS is currently taking applications from private landowners for a recent 2.5-million-dollar fire conservation grant. The applications can be obtained locally at her office located at 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C in Susanville.

Lassen County – Not present

SIR – Scott Dixon introduced himself and gave updates on the SIR fire crews. He stated they were four strong in Genesse and are currently working on projects in the rancheria in Susanville.

American Red Cross – Not Present

Firewise Communities – Jacquie Cordova of Westwood Fire Wise was present and requested information about code enforcement in her area (Referred CalFire). **Ruth Morentz** expressed gratitude on behalf of Day/ Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council to BLM Applegate.

Golden State Natural Resources- Laurence Crabtree updated the attendees about the project to build a biomass wood pellet plant. He stated the CEQA assessments are still on-gong, and the project is nearing a draft document and public comment stage.

- V. **Other – Bill Jacks** of Terra Fuego gave a power point presentation about the partnership with Five Dot Ranchers, Todd and Logan Swickard. They are collaboratively working on a controlled burn at the Willow Creek Valley Ranch off Hwy 139 in Lassen County. Bill gave an enthusiastic presentation about the mission of Terra Fuego for preservation of natural resource efforts by way of controlled burning projects. They offer a “Frequent Prescribed Fire Strategy and Stewardship to the Lands” in their efforts to mitigate unhealthy forest conditions.

VI. **Public Comment/Questions**

VII. **Next meeting** – September 18, 2024.

VIII. **Adjournment of Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 7:25 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.