

**LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2020**

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on February 03, 2020 at the Susan River Fire Protection Office located at 705-145 Hwy 395 in Johnstonville. Officers present were Vice Chair Bob Andrews, Managing Director Tom Esgate and Secretary/Treasurer Nicki Moroney.

- I. **Opening and Welcome:** Bob Andrews welcomed everyone and asked everyone to sign-in. He also asked that everyone introduce themselves. There was no Treasurer's Report.
- II. **Public Comment** – Cathy Hunter with Clear Creek thanked everyone for their hard work.
- III. **Managing Director's Report** – Tom reported on the following:

Active Projects

SNC Diamond Mountain Treatment (Beaty) – All treatment activities have been completed, in the closeout stage now will be done by February 15, 2020.

SNC Diamond Mountain USFS – The bulk of the money goes to assist with prescribed pile burning. There is a minor amount with some thinning of plantations and a bit of mastication. In the process of getting an agreement together with a private contractor and the USFS.

CCI/FH Diamond Mountain – Our planned activities for next year are the continuation of hand treatments and the beginning of mechanical treatments. We awarded the Oro sale back in November, the 2nd half of the timber sale there will be a bid opening next Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

CCI/FP –

South Eagle Lake – Per A. Mattos with Calfire they are just about done with A1 Road to 36. The only thing they have left is at the top where the snow is too deep, as soon as the snow melts, they will finish up. T. Esgate reported they just started 900 acres of biomass thinning at the bottom. Per P. Fullerton with SPI, Holt started back on Tuesday cutting approximately 950 acres and then they will chip and haul out.

Big Valley Mountain – There are four different contractors on Beauty ground, Peterson Logging, Norcal, Evans and Curt Dowell. Got clearance thru PIT RCD to allow more work along the Foothill Road of Big Valley Mountain. McGarr is masticating in the Day Lassen Bench area on forest service ground. We are trying to get cleared to do the USFS biomass thinning on about 400-500 acres on Day Road; we may need a road package.

Clear Creek – Pretty much done, one or two treatments left to do.

Piute WWUI – Within the South Eagle Lake footprint. Almost all treatments are done, just have Firewise in the Schools left.

Milford Title III – Going to see if they will use their money towards the TPI.

Title III Report – Completed all of our Firewise and CWPP activities for our current/past agreement with the County. Per T. Shaw we are waiting on the next allocation of TIII funds. Sheriff requested all TIII money, there should be more TIII in March. Per S. Starr not sure if TIII funds will continue after March.

Cal Fire GHG

South Eagle Lake – Closed out.

Black Mountain/PRCD – Closed out.

DLB Shasta Title III – They are supplying TIII money for a community assessment & action plan.

Thompson Peak Initiative – Still waiting to hear back.

IV. **Applications/New Potential Projects**

- a. **NFWF SNC Diamond Mountain USFS** – In the process of getting the final grant agreement.
- b. **SNC Capacity (TPI and Others)** – Per K. Hoffman she will check into this, says it should be moving forward and you should be able to work with the Modoc RCD to get the subgrant going.
- c. **CCI/FP TPI** – Next meeting will be in March.
- d. **RAC** – Resource Advisory Committee for the USFS. If we don't get funded for the TPI forest prevention grant we may put in a RAC application for the planning of the NEPA part of TPI. M. Shaffer says there is a RAC meeting in April.

- V. BLM** – E. Kronner reported they've been working on projects; one is juniper reduction out by Horse Lake along Horse Lake Road. Mechanical juniper reduction out by Fredonyer which will continue, will have more out by Horse Mountain. Hopefully in the meantime we can burn some of the piles we create while doing the juniper reduction. Looked at the BLM land in Milford, nothing for fuels reduction there. Proposing WUI treatments and will focus on Chester, Portola and Crescent Mills. We are in the process of hiring temporary employees for fire season. Per T. Esgate even though BLM doesn't have a lot of land to treat in Janesville or Milford your involvement is critical and we would like your participation in our TPI meetings. E. Kronner says he will continue to go to those meetings.
- Cal Fire** – A. Mattos reported on the suppression side they just finished the 1st round of hiring captains. On the fuel's reduction side, the Antelope camp is on BLM and USFS lands burning. He introduced the new VMP coordinator Glenn Schall who is an RPF and will be a significant, have to teach him how to be a fireman first. Per G. Schall they are looking to put a fuel break in by Diane Drive and potentially one or two in the Cheney Creek area. Will probably move forward on the Hamilton Branch project in Plumas County, maintenance phase. Gold Run Road will tie-in to Chaney Creek clear into Susan River, most of the fuel break on Beaty.
- SNC** – K. Hoffman reported their Board authorized five million dollars of Prop 68 funds to be spent on a few different grant programs; three million for forest health, one million for rec and tourism and one million for resilient communities. They have a quarterly Board meeting coming up the 1st week in March in Sacramento; there are twenty forest health projects going forward from the last round, they will probably be receiving awards from the Board, about seven million. She announced there will be two land conservation grants being awarded, pending Board approval. The two are in Lassen County one by the Mountain Meadows area and the other is Kramer Ranch in Lassen/Modoc County. Last she heard SP901 had not be recertified/authorized, this usually happens in January, it affects forest health projects.
- NE CA Fire Prevention** – No report.
- USFS** – E. Young reported Cradle Valley timber sale is about 60% complete, completion is expected by fall of 2020. Currently working on a 4200-acre NEPA analyses for Walker Fire Restoration project which includes fence reconstruction and timber salvage, decision expected by the end of March. Prescribed burning operations are planned for the district this spring.
- NRCS** - No report.
- Susan River FPD** – No report.
- Janesville FPD** – No report.
- OES** – No report.
- SPI** – P. Fullerton reported SEL biomass chipping of 950 acres started last week. Calfire to add more acres around the Eagle Lake Station.
- Beaty** – No report.
- Lassen County** – Reported above.
- Honey Lake Valley RCD** – W. Johnson went over future projects they may be involved in. They are working on putting together a carbon sequestration practices and methodology's and doing a series of workshops for that. Talking with Lassen Community College to re-operate the incinerator as a biochar test bed and production facility. Working on Carbon Farm Initiative for Lassen and Modoc County, educational outreach and partnership with Lassen High School, Baxter Creek Watershed, Meadow Restoration, Susan River Watershed Conditions Assessment for water quality monitoring and capacity, Susan River Watershed Management, Susan River Climate Impact and Adaptation Report, Lassen Co Ground Water Resources Survey and Mgmt Plan, Lassen Co Climate Change Impact Assessment and Adaptation Plan, Biochar, Modoc Line and started discussion on bringing high speed fiberoptic capacity thru the Federal Rural Data Grants program.
- SIR** – No report.
- Shane Starr** - Lots going on in Congress. LaMalfa working out a line item budget for forestry road maintenance and creation on our forest service lands. Congressman is coming out with an HR2381 Modern Clean and Safe Trucks Act, this would repeal the 12% excise tax on heavy equipment.
- Honey Lake Power** - Steve Kozlowski reported the plant running well.
- VI. Other** –
- VII. Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 02, 2020 at Susan River Fire Protection District office.
- VIII. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.