

LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.
General Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024

Location: **Westwood Community Center, Westwood, CA located on the corner of 3rd St. & Birch St.**
Time: 5:30 p.m.

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) convened in regular session at 5:30pm on May 15, 2024 at the Westwood Community Center, Westwood CA. Officers present were Chair Ruth Morentz, Vice Chair Laurence Crabtree, Board Member Kam Vento, and Board Member Yvonne Bennett. Staff present were Managing Director Cade Mohler, Projects Coordinator Kyle Herron, and Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator Hailey Park.

I. Opening and Welcome

Chair Ruth Morentz called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Ruth introduced LFSC and board members/ staff introduced themselves.

Sign in – A sign in sheet was passed around for voluntary sign in

II. Managing Director Report

MD Cade Mohler gave a brief introduction to LFSC and explained purpose of general meetings is for LFSC to update the general public on what is actively being worked on and or planned and to inform the community on how public funds are being spent. He mentioned is also an opportunity for other wildfire mitigation groups to update the public on their projects and learn what each other are working on. It is a forum for the general public to voice opinions or ask questions or have general discussions on issues related to fire preparedness and wildfire mitigation.

Active Projects

MD Cade Mohler presented project spreadsheet overview and quickly gave an update on each project – See spreadsheet overview attachment.

CalFire Grants

Diamond Mountain Forest & Watershed Restoration
Hog & Sheep Fire Forest Restoration
Shingletown WUI Fuels Treatment
Dyer Mountain WUI Fuels Treatment
Whitmore Forest & Watershed Restoration
Clear Creek & Hog Flat Fuel Treatment

SNC Grants

Bootsole
East Side Communities
Diamond Mountain

Other

Honey Lake Valley RCD – SPA
California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinator
USFS Cradle Valley/Bootsole Dixie Fire Salvage
CWPP
Defensible Space Assistance Grant

III. Closed Out Projects

Thompson Peak Initiative

IV. **New Planned/Awarded Projects**

South Lassen Wildfire Recovery Projects – MD Cade Mohler announced that a \$6.5 million dollar award to LFSC was recommended by CALFIRE and they have posted awards on their forest health grant website. It was discussed that this project is from Mountain Meadows to 395 in the footprint of the 2020-2021 fires.

North Susanville WUI and Dixie Fire LNF Hazard Tree Removal – MD Cade Mohler discussed LFSC is unsure if these projects were awarded but was told he will know in June. He gave an overview of each. A question was asked by a member of the General Public about how much of Keddie Ridge will be cleared under a hazard tree project. Cade Mohler responded that it is generally one tree length or 150' on each side of the road for hazard tree removal and to discuss further dead tree removal with the Lassen National Forest. It was discussed that this question could be directed to the LNF staff that were in attendance.

V. **Other**

-Cade: Dyer Mountain WUI Fuels Treatment Project Update: MD Cade Mohler gave a PowerPoint presentation on past, current, and planned treatments on the Dyer Mount WUI Fuels Treatment Project that is being implemented in the vicinity of Westwood, Pinetown, Clear Creek, and Hamilton Branch. After the presentation, a member of the public asked about the Plumas Fire Safe Council Project (Eastshore project) that is south of the Dyer project. MD Cade Mohler let the gentleman know that LFSC is aware of the project and he believes it's being planned with SPI and Collins Pine.

-Hailey: Lassen County-wide Defensible Space Project Update: WRC Hailey Park gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lassen County-wide Defensible Space Project, with a focus on the Westwood, Pinetown, and Clear Creek Communities. Comments were made by the general public and CalFire praising the program and emphasizing the importance of defensible space. Hailey and the contractor were praised for their professionalism and work ethic. Following the presentation discussion ensued regarding the authority of the council, county, or CalFire to make people (specific property was named on Birch St) comply with regulations. Limited enforcement authority of county and state were discussed as well as council having no authority, but this being a voluntary program.

VI. **Agency Updates**

BLM – Not in attendance

CalFire – CALFIRE Unit Chief Eric Ewing introduced himself. Mr. Ewing discussed the importance of fuels reduction work and the work the Council does. He discussed how he liked the areas we are treating around Westwood as strategic fuels reduction. It was discussed that there is a directive to complete more treatments in the unit and that LMU will be ramping up their treatment programs such as the burning they are accomplishing on SPI off of A-13. It was discussed how the unit is unsure how the State budget deficit will affect future grant opportunities for this type of work but to be prepared for a potential curtailment of certain programs to Firesafe councils. CalFire ops chief Adam Mattos discussed staffing levels, the prescribed burning operations from the past few weeks, importance of work being completed by partners and that they see the work being accomplished on the ground.

SNC- Not in attendance

NE CA Fire Prevention- not in attendance

USFS – Lassen National Forest – 2 Eagle Lake District Fuels Staff (Mike and Reece) presented current program of work including assisting other districts with spring burning. A question was posed about Keddie Ridge Dixie fire killed tree removal. Staff could not comment specifically other than their priority is 23 miles of hazard tree removal.

Susan River FPD – not in attendance

Lassen County OES -not in attendance

SPI- District Forester James Hines Petty discussed SPI Dixie Fire planting accomplishments. He discussed that a logger will be moving over to Highway 147 soon to complete the fuel break along the road. Trees marked in white will be retained.

Honey Lake Power- Fuels Manager Mark Schaffer updated the Council on HLP fuel purchases. He noted that because of the abundance of material coming to the plant, he is having to say no to operators. He discussed that local projects from Susanville, Westwood, and Plumas County are the priority for the plant to purchase from. He mentioned projects from as far away as Yuba Pass are attempting to sell chips to HLP.

Beaty – not in attendance

Lassen County- not in attendance

Honey Lake Valley RCD- not in attendance

SIR - not in attendance

Red Cross- not in attendance

Firewise Community Leaders – Clear Creek Firewise Community leaders discussed the green waste bins in Clear Creek and commented on the success of the defensible space program. Westwood Firewise discussed their issues with procuring bins for their green waste project. They will have a Westwood cleanup day in June. MD Cade Mohler discussed how the Defensible Space project was initiated by Jaquie Cordova of Westwood Firewise providing a list of homeowners interested in help creating defensible space in May of 2023.

VII. Public Comment/Questions - More discussion from agencies, council, and general public about defensible space program including eligibility, and how long the program will run for (LFSC states currently it will expire in December but we are planning to apply for further funding if the program is successful), and if large hazardous trees are eligible for removal.

VIII. Next Meeting – Location / Time

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2024, at Susan River Fire Protection District Fire Hall

IX. Adjournment – 7 pm