

LASSEN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 16 2024, 5:40PM

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) convened in regular session at 5:40 pm on October 16, 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 Park and Board Members, Laurence Crabtree and Chevi Amrein.

I. Opening and Welcome – Chair Ruth Morentz called the meeting to order at 5:40 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. **Cade Mohler** provided the LFSC Projects Overview to the attendees (please see attachments with the minutes). The overview included a spreadsheet and LFSC Active Project Overview and Mapping for reference.

III. Closed Out Grants – Refer to spreadsheet for detailed overview.

IV. New Planned/Awarded Projects – Refer to spreadsheet for detailed overview. Cade noted the South Lassen Wildfire Recovery Project (Reforestation of non-industrial timber in Milford, CA), North Susanville WUI Fuels Treatments Prevention Grant (Fuel Breaks North of Susanville to Lake Forest) and the LFSC Dixie Fire Hazard Tree Projects (Fredonyer to Keddie Ridge) are awaiting final agreements with our CALFire partners.

V. Agency Updates

BLM – Not Present

CalFire – Adam **Mattos** introduced **Casey Urrutia** as the new Battalion Chief II for the Lassen Modoc Division of Cal Fire. Adam stated they currently have five engines deployed to Shasta County working on the Shoe Fire which began Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Adam highlighted the current Bieber project, wherein the Ash Creek Refuge area is undergoing restoration and fuels reduction on over 3200 acres noting fuels reduction is the current priority. Adam stated there is no burning on private lands. Once the restrictions are lifted and permissions granted, they have burn plans in place. We welcomed Casey Urrutia who has 17 years of experience to the Lassen Modoc Forests and is a native of Susanville. **Joe Walton** gave an overview of the success of the Mill Burn project in collaboration with local agencies completed in Susanville, in August.

SNC – Not present

NE CA Fire Prevention – Not present

USFS – **Bobette Jones** of the Eagle lake Fire District requested a moment to remember their recently departed team members, Jake Martin and Adam Hill. Bobette stated they had a successful public stakeholder meeting yesterday. Her agency has completed the NEPA requirements for the Dixie Post Fire Roadside Hazards Projects which encompasses 28 miles of hazard tree removal. Another active project noted is the fuel reduction and clearing along seven miles of the PG&E lines on Hwy 44. The LNFS has completed 5000 acres of prescribed burn and hope to complete 4000 more, contingent on staffing levels. Bobette stated the current planning, and priority for her department is the 5 year plan for fuels treatments in the Lassen. Most public campgrounds are closed for season; grazing permits are done for the year and the agency is increasing the amount of Christmas Tree permits for 2024. Bobette concluded with information about the limited budget, noting wildland suppression funds are down. There is a scheduled Eagle Lake Summit planned for November 19, 2024 (the venue to be determined). The focus of the summit will be on the Eagle Lake Water Shed.

Susan River FPD – Not present

OES Lassen County – Not present

SPI – Not Present

Honey Lake Power – Not present

Beaty – Not present

Lassen County – Not Present

Honey Lake Valley RCD – Not Present

Susanville Fire Department- Not Present.

SIR – Scott Dixon stated his crew is working locally in the Susanville area. He is working on a burn plan in conjunction with his stakeholders and will begin pile burning very soon.

American Red Cross – Duane Taaffe stated his organization has sent two staffers to Florida to assist with the recent hurricanes. Duane stated he partnered with Americore and attended a recent open house event at the Susanville Fire Department. Duane reported he was able to handle requests for installation of residential smoke detectors for some attendees. The current ARC projects include recruiting new volunteers locally, identifying shelter locations in Susanville and childhood education programs. The organization is currently partnering with local citizens in retirement communities to assist with fire prevention and mitigation education.

Golden State Natural Resources – Laurence Crabtree updated the attendees about the proposed wood pellet projects to build a biomass wood pellet plant in Bieber and Jamestown California. He stated the goal is to build two pellet plants to transport its products to Asia and Europe. GSNR is a forest resiliency company whose goal is to replace coal with wood products. The public draft and comment period will begin October 22, 2024, with a scheduled community meeting in Bieber, California on October 28, 2024. Laurence stated this is an on-going process will some hurdles still to come.

Firewise Communities – Jacquie Cordova of Westwood stated she is wrapping up the year of presentations and gave compliments to Hailey Park for her work in their community.

VI. Other – Hailey Park stated the Lassen County-Wide Defensible Space Program has completed 250 treatments.

throughout Lassen County. The average cost spent per property is \$1,600.00. There are currently 400 sign ups still pending and are be considered once funding is secured. LFSC is still accepting sign up for the program. There continues to be a need for defensible space assistance around Lassen County. The LFSC website is a great option to learn more.

VII. Public Comment/Questions – None noted.

VIII. Next meeting – November 20, 2024

IX. Adjournment of Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 6:45 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.