



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

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Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Ben Smith on February 16, 2021 at 1800 hours local time. This was a virtual meeting, held live using the Zoom service. This meeting was recorded. Audio of the meeting is available here: <https://wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.2.16.2021.mp3>.

Roll call: The following WFSC Board of Directors were present: John Aziz, Robert Comperini, Hank Hallmark, David Larkin, Ben Smith, Kathy Smith. Jim Emery arrived late. Absent was: Terri Hill.

The following agency representatives were present: Kelly Anderson (SB County Fire), Lauren Blake (San Bernardino National Forest), Susan Jennings (CCC), Art Lozano (USFS), Mike Page (USFS), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission).

Public comments and questions: None

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting were approved with one correction. John Aziz suggested clarifying that a recent board meeting to add David Larkin to the board was held via an email vote. A motion to approve was made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Hank Hallmark. Motion passed 6/0.

Cooperative partner & agency updates:

Angeles National Forest: None

San Bernardino National Forest (Lauren Blake/Art Lozano): Art Lozano gave a presentation regarding the Lytle Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. The presentation discussed an upcoming fuel reduction project planned for the Lytle Creek area west of the I-15, to include the area of Lone Pine Canyon. The size of the project is approximately 5,000 acres. The Lone Pine Canyon portion of this project is approximately 4,000 acres of this entire project. This project is still in the planning stage, so no firm dates are set yet, but it is expected that this project could start as early as fall, 2021. For more information, visit this web page: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59407>.

California Conservation Corp (Susan Jennings): Susan was present to let us know that the CCC is available to work on fuel reductions projects in our area. They currently have 84 members (6 crews), who are available for projects. Lauren Blake indicated that the CCC should be able to participate in the Lytle Creek project.

CAL FIRE: John Aziz reported that CAL FIRE Fenner Camp has an MOU with the WFSC to provide tree removal and fuels reduction along SR-2 in the Wrightwood area. This MOU was renewed. This MOU can be viewed here:

http://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/minutes/2021-02-16_CALFIRE_WFSC_Annual_Agreement.pdf

LA County Agricultural Commission (Ariel Verayo):

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have signed a resolution declaring 29,890 vacant parcels within the county to be a public nuisance because they have not been cleared of hazardous fuels. 11,458 parcels are in the Antelope Valley area, which includes the Wrightwood area. Notices have been sent out to these property owners. Owner can protest our decision that their property has been declared a public nuisance at one of our protest hearings. The first hearing will take place in Arcadio on 2/17/2021, and the second hearing will take place on 2/18/2021 in Lancaster. Affected property owners have until April 1, 2021 to clear their properties. After that, the county vendor will clear the property at the owner's expense.

LA County Fire: None

SB County Fire (Kelly Anderson): John Aziz asked if there is a way local fire captains can cite someone with illegal fires. Kelly confirmed that captains don't have that authority. They can only extinguish the fires. Law enforcement or County Fire Arson investigators are the only people who can issue citations. Kelly will follow up with station 14 captains, to see if there is something that can be done.

Kelly discussed how burn permits are now being granted, but emphasized that burn permits are still not being issued for mountain areas.

SB County Code Enforcement: None

Treasurer's report: No treasurer's report was submitted, since there was no activity during the last month.

New/continued business:

Jim Emery discussed the annual State Farm grant that WFSC normally receives each year. Since there will most likely not be a Mountain High fundraiser, WDAD or a green waste event in 2021 due to Covid, the WFSC will not apply for this grant for this year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1919 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on March 16, 2021.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Comperini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council